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Assembly California Legislature



RUDY SALAS, JR.
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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NATURAL RESOURCES
LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
RAIL
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING IN THE
21ST CENTURY CALIFORNIA

February 2, 2016

The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair
Senate Committee on Budget
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Shirley Weber, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Funding for Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS) Regional Operations and Services

Dear Chairpersons,

In 1977, California made a promise to serve and assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act). In fulfilling this promise, the state's regional centers now serve over 300,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

California's regional centers provide extremely valuable tools and assists individuals with work, giving them the ability to thrive and live independently in their communities. Unfortunately, for decades the state's regional center system has undergone extensive budget cuts which have resulted in the reduction of vital services and more significantly – forcing the closure of programs and centers. Exacerbating the situation, regional center costs have grown by 24% as staff to worker ratios have increased and a freeze on provider rates since 2013.

Although the 2016-17 proposed budget acknowledges the need to adequately fund regional centers, the proposal provides no financial relief. These centers and the communities they serve need our help.



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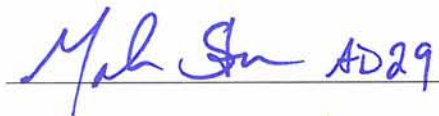
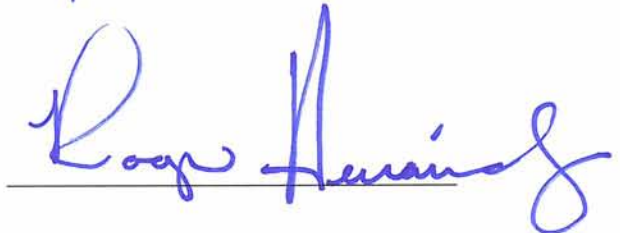

It is time to keep our promise to the thousands of individuals and their families who without this vital funding would lose the independence, pride and self-reliance they deserve. Therefore, we urge you to support a 10% increase in the regional center operations and purchase of services budgets to adequately fund these critically needed centers and the services they provide.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



RUDY SALAS
State Assembly, District 32

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Lu Ly AD21

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Jim Cooper AD9

~~Ken Cooley~~ 35

Susan A Bonilla AD14

Jacqui Di 44

Kevin Mullen AD22

Jim C. [unclear] AD30

[unclear] AD55

[unclear] AD40

Cheryl Brown

[unclear] AD 34

Cc: Diana S. Dooley, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Santi, Rogers, Director, Department of Developmental Services
Senate Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services Members
Assembly Subcommittee 1 on Health and Human Services Members
Senate Committee on Budget Members
Assembly Committee on Budget Members