

John Q. Public  
126 A Street  
Somewhere, Alabama 99999

October 1, 2011

The Honorable Joan Smith  
House of Representatives  
Alabama State House  
11 South Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Re: Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) Funding

Dear Representative Smith:

I am a lifelong resident of Alabama and currently reside in Montgomery. I am writing to ask for your consideration of important mental health services when you are faced with budget decisions in the upcoming session of the legislature. Further cuts to the ADMH budget will have negative consequences for important community programs in our area.

My nephew John, who is four, was recently diagnosed with Autism. Autism is a developmental disorder which appears in the first three years of life, and affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills. John attends a preschool at The ABCs of Autism in Montgomery where they have developed an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) especially for his particular developmental issues. It has been proven that early, intensive, appropriate treatment programs greatly improve the outlook for most young children with autism. If funding for this program were cut John's chances of a happy and productive life in our community would be greatly reduced. Please vote to restore ADMH funding to pre-proration levels for 2013.

If you desire more information about Autism there are many great resources available on the internet or please feel free to contact me and I will send you information. I appreciate your consideration of the funding needs for the mental health of Alabama citizens and the Alabama Department of Mental Health, an essential function of our state's government.

Sincere regards,