

John Q. Provider
126 A Street
Somewhere, Alabama 99999

October 1, 2011

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

Re: Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) Funding

Dear Senator Smith:

I am Executive Director of The ABCs of Developmental Disabilities (ABCDD) in Birmingham. On behalf of my 46 staff members 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 consequences for important community programs in our area.

In general, a developmental disability includes, but is not limited to, people who have an intellectual disability, autism, cerebral palsy, severe seizure disorder or a severe head injury that occurs before the age of 22.

At ABCDD we provide many programs to meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. In our day program we develop individualized plans especially to meet the needs for each participant's particular developmental issues. Plans cover such topics as self-care, language, learning, mobility, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. We also offer programs for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. These programs help to develop skills so family members can be an active part in the development and education process. If these programs were cut it would greatly reduce the chances of a happy and productive life in our community for persons with developmental disabilities. Please vote to fund the ADMH at pre-proration levels for 2013, the wellbeing of Alabama citizens with developmental disabilities, their families, and our community depend on it.

If you desire more information about developmental disabilities there are many great resources available on our website at www.abcdd.com or please feel free to contact me and I will gladly send information. I appreciate your consideration of the mental health of Alabama citizens and the Alabama Department of Mental Health, an essential function of our state's government.

Sincere regards,