

SAMPLE LETTER

January, 2011

Dear Assembly Member _____/ Senator _____,

I am the _____ (parent, family member, concerned citizen) of a _____ (child, sister, brother, family member, ...) with a developmental disability who receives residential services at Villa Esperanza Services. I am writing to advise you of my serious concerns regarding the current California state budget crisis. The impact of the proposed 20% program funding cutbacks in the current and next fiscal years will cause financial hardship for my family.

Villa Esperanza Services is a non-profit organization serving the needs of children, adults and seniors with developmental and other disabilities, and their families for almost fifty years. It is one of the few agencies that serve people with moderate to severe disabilities, including full spectrum autism. Agencies like Villa educate our special needs children, and help adults and seniors live and work independently, and become valued members in the community

I respectfully request that as funding decisions are made that you strongly consider that residential programs serving the disability community have had only one cost-of-living increase in 20 + years, and that further cutbacks will likely affect some agencies' financial viability and some may be forced to close down.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,