

September 1, 2015

Senator Kevin de Leon
President Pro tempore, California State Senate
State Capitol Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator de Leon,

I have a child with a developmental disability and she needs your help right now. I am asking you to stand up to the Governor and provide the 10% increase in rates for programs serving Regional Center clients like my _____ and thousands of others across California.

My ____ is receiving the help s/he needs from the programs funded through the regional center. With their help s/he is gaining the skills and experience needed to live as an adult in our community.

The organization serving my daughter depends upon the rates of reimbursements you include in the State Budget. But as you know, once again your Budget did not help. These rates have stayed the same for so many years that they no longer come close to covering the basic costs to provide quality staff and facilities. Just this week another residential home provider gave notice to Lanterman Regional Center that it will be closing its doors in October. This home serves 10 individuals and as of October those people do not have a place to live.

No one can expect these organizations to continue stretching without finally breaking. But when they break – what will happen to my _____? Parents cannot live forever. Our State has made a commitment to be there for people like my daughter. As more programs close where will our children go? What will they do?

We need you to act now. Please honor the promise of the Lanterman Act that California made to our children.

Thank you for considering this urgent request.

Your name and signature