

The Alliance

Supporting People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

February 17, 2016

Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Republican Leader Jean Fuller
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Republican Leader Chad Mays
State Capitol, Room 3104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Approval of Developmental Services Funding Increases; MCO Tax

Honorable Legislative Leaders:

The Alliance *Supporting People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* is a statewide coalition supporting the lives of thousands of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) throughout California in a wide variety of programs. We are part of the Lanterman Coalition.

We urge your support of the Administration's proposal to 1) adopt a revised Managed Care Organization tax replacing the version set to sunset at the end of this fiscal year, and 2) approve a funding increase for programs supporting people with I/DD and their families.

We have been deeply involved in negotiations with the Administration in recent weeks involving vitally needed funding to help stabilize a badly crumbling network of services supporting the lives of more than 300,000 people with I/DD.

The needs brought about by decades of neglect and underfunding cannot possibly be erased in a single legislative session. And any limited proposal we bring forward now will not prevent all program failures – the damage has been too great for that.

But after a great deal of good work and good faith consideration of all the factors involved, we are pleased to lend out support to the Administration's proposal for a \$400+ million funding increase to DD services. This proposal will make a difference to people with disabilities and their families and to those who have dedicated themselves to this system.

We also recognize that a significant part of this proposal involves the passage by the Legislature of the Managed Care Organization Tax. Failure to pass this measure could expose our system to cuts when we are barely hanging on today. And while we are not tax experts nor are we concerned with the source of

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The Alliance believes that the greatest risk to persons with developmental disabilities in California is the erosion of the individual planning process. The Alliance will defend and strengthen the IPP process, as defined in the Lanterman Act, and work to assure the availability of high quality services to implement each person's individual plan.

the funding increases, this is the proposal that will get us further along the road to fixing this incredibly important network.

For all of these reasons, we call on you and your colleagues in both the Senate and the Assembly and in both parties to vote for this proposal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwight Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "H".

DWIGHT HANSEN, Hansen & Associates

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c: Diana Dooley, Secretary of Health and Human Services Agency
1600 9th St #460, Sacramento, CA 95814

Michael Wilkening, Acting Director, Department of Developmental Services
1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814