



February 4, 2011

Governor Deval Patrick
State House
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Governor Patrick,

Please accept our sincere appreciation for meeting with us in January to discuss the pending House One budget request.

We are indeed grateful to you for the strong support you have shown to people with disabilities throughout your service as Governor of the Commonwealth.

As you know, we will be working closely with our members and allies to build legislative support for your recommendations, and we will also be seeking to add additional dollars to family support, day habilitation, adult foster care, adult day health, as well as fully funding Rolland placements and Turning 22 programs.

With respect to the pending FY 11 request to reduce the current reimbursement rates of day habilitation providers, **we formally wish to ask your Administration to withdraw consideration of a cut for the current fiscal year; and we ask that you postpone the DHCFP hearing for an FY 12 rate reduction pending the outcome of House One and more analysis regarding state revenue projections.**

Due to the never ending series of snow storms, and subsequent work cancellations, Day Habilitation programs are losing revenue that either matches or exceeds the targeted cut for FY 11. Your Administration has stressed that the proposed cut was initiated to reduce Medicaid expenditures for FY 11. If that is the case, then that goal has already been achieved due to the decline in Medicaid billing due to snow storm related closings. Imposing an additional FY 11 cut, along with snow day cuts, is fiscally more difficult than our programs can bear. By withdrawing the FY 11 rate reduction for Day Habilitation programs, your Administration can help preserve the fiscal integrity of these programs which are fragile at best.

We do understand the Administration may be forced to proceed with the FY 12 rate reduction; however we believe this decision should be made in context with a more accurate picture of revenue projections and of legislative consideration of House One. Delaying the Feb 21-22 DHCFP hearings will give you and your allies, such as The Arc and ADDP, a more flexible position to fully consider the impact and availability of resources, resulting in a better decision for all concerned.

We would greatly appreciate your consideration of this matter. We look forward to hearing from your Administration.

Sincerely,

Leo Sarkissian
Executive Director
The Arc of Massachusetts

Gary Blumenthal
President & CEO
ADDP