

SAMPLE Letter

Assembly Member Patty Berg
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub-committee #1
State Capitol, Room 4146
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916-319-2101

RE: Item 4300 (Department of Developmental Services) and Item 5160 (Department of Rehabilitation) – Opposition to the 10% Supported Employment Rate Reduction

Dear Assembly Member Berg,

As a (*family member, human service worker, person with a disability*), I urge the Legislature to eliminate the 10% cut to Supported Employment (SE) rates proposed in the Governor's budget. Several years ago Supported Employment services received an increase through a bi-partisan effort during the State budget process. One major reason for the support was Supported Employment (SE) services were almost non-existent in high-cost areas of the State like the Bay Area, because rates for the service had not been increased in almost a decade. The funding increase has enabled SE providers to invest in making the service more available to people with developmental disabilities.

I recognize that the state is facing a significant budget deficit for FY 08-09 and that the request to reconsider the 10% rate cut for Supported Employment programs will require an offsetting adjustment in the proposed budget. We believe this can be accomplished with only minor adjustments including a cooperative arrangement between the State Department of Rehabilitation and the State Department of Developmental Services to assure that available federal matching dollars for Supported Employment services are not lost.

If the 10% cut is approved by the Legislature many people in the developmental disabilities service system will not be able to access Supported Employment services, become employed, or demonstrate their abilities and value in the workplace, and instead will have to continue to struggle in deep poverty.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Your Name and Address