

**From:** Cynthia Ferguson [<mailto:fergusoncynthia33@yahoo.com>]  
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**To:** ddsct.co  
**Subject:** Five Year Plan

Hello my name is Cynthia Ferguson, I'm the parent to Denzel Closs, a 22 yr old on the Autism spectrum.

My son has great capabilities and desires to one day live independently, but he does need help with everyday decisions and tasks. While Denzel was able to graduate East Hartford High School June 2013 it wasn't til then I discovered that no transitional services were available for someone over his IQ level of 70.

He was then directed to BRS for support on job training and given a job coach, however that took over a year and many working interviews. He has since found employment w/a retail store and can work at a good minimum wage job, but his real dream is to work at a bookstore. Because he suffers with depression and has the Autism, he constantly struggles with anxiety and can only work 8 hrs a week.

I would like to see DDS not only refocus their attention to community support, but also expand the group of people with disabilities. Not just an IQ level, but look at the individual and see what services are needed to allow them to independently live.

When it comes to families that have loved ones outside of institutions and community group homes, we struggle not only with helping our family member but with trying to manage and keep up in our own personal affairs.

Please as you look over your budget, take into account those families who solely depend on each other to give their son or daughter the life they had planned for them at birth.

Yours truly,  
Cynthia Ferguson