

**From:** Patricia Smith-Romanski [<mailto:pattismith@snet.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 1:20 PM  
**To:** ddsct.co  
**Subject:** "Five Year Plan"

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am the mother of a 19 year old with autism who has both intellectual disability and epilepsy.

I am writing because I am worried about my son's future. He will graduate from high school in 2018 and I do not know what supports will be available to him at that point. We will likely be looking for a community provider to support him in a day program, but I am aware that there are waiting lists and there have been deep cuts made to these programs. My son needs supervision 24/7. He is a good kid, and would be able to do some amount of productive work if supported in the right environment. But this needs to be in place as he ages out of the school system in the next 18 months.

I always thought that my son would eventually move to a group home where my husband and I could assist him in that difficult but necessary transition. His entire education has been aimed at helping him to achieve the greatest level of independence possible. Although he will always need support, we are proud of what he has been able to achieve given his disability. We are now hearing horror stories about 20 year waiting lists and adults not being placed until parents die. This is totally unacceptable and inhumane.

I am asking you to look at how the department allocates funds when writing the five year plan. I AM ASKING THAT WASTE, OVERTIME, AND EXPENSIVE INSTITUTIONS be eliminated so that funds can go to the many, many needy individuals and families in CT. caught in the difficult situation of caring for someone with disabilities who will need support throughout their life. PLEASE give more supports to community based programs and community based housing options. END the residential waiting list now.

Our children and families need these services desperately. They are Americans deserving of the right to happiness and feelings of self worth.

We need to be able to count on DDS and our representatives in Hartford to help.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Smith  
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