



The \$11 million cuts in state funds to the Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Waiver line item really means \$33 million in cuts to the program because West Virginia gets a 75% federal match. These cuts will be devastating to the children and adults with disabilities and their families.

The purpose of West Virginia's Title XIX I/DD waiver program is to provide the services and supports that allow people the most significant developmental disabilities to live in their homes and communities and not in an institution. Children and adults with disabilities rely on these Medicaid services for their health, well-being, and independence.

These cuts will ultimately leave the most vulnerable in our state without the much needed services they need to remain in their homes, and in some cases some of the cuts will actually cost the state more to implement than they are spending now. Cutting services to people with disabilities, no matter where they live, will not help the budget in the long run, because providing the care in an institution is far more expensive than providing support in the home.

We need these funds reinstated and the cuts reversed so people with disabilities and their families will not have to face the devastating impact that this budget cut will have on the critical services and supports.

Examples of additional talking points to personalize the message:

- If I don't have help, I cannot eat.
- If I don't have help, I cannot change my clothes.
- If I don't have help, I cannot shower.
- If I don't have help, I cannot get to the bathroom.
- If I don't have help, I cannot work at my job.
- If my son/daughter does not have help, I will have to quit my job to care for them.
- I am physically/emotionally/financially unable to care for my child on my own. If critical supports are cut, there is no other plan that I can access to help my child or loved one.
- My child requires 24/7 one-to-one support for his or her safety and I rely on this program for helping cover these hours as I have no one else to assist.
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## ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICIALS

<p><b>Governor Jim Justice</b> <a href="https://wv.accessgov.com/governor/Forms/Page/submitcomment-governor/contact-governor/">https://wv.accessgov.com/governor/Forms/Page/submitcomment-governor/contact-governor/</a> Phone: (304) 558-2000 or 1-888-438-2731</p>
<p><b>Senate Finance Chairman - Senator Eric Tarr</b> <a href="mailto:eric.tarr@wvsenate.gov">eric.tarr@wvsenate.gov</a> Phone: (304) 357-7901 <b>Additional Senate Finance Committee Members can be found here:</b> <a href="https://www.wvlegislature.gov/committees/senate/SenateCommittee.cfm?Chart=fin">https://www.wvlegislature.gov/committees/senate/SenateCommittee.cfm?Chart=fin</a></p>
<p><b>House Finance Chairman - Delegate Vernon Criss</b> <a href="mailto:vernon.criss@wvhouse.gov">vernon.criss@wvhouse.gov</a> Phone: (304) 340-3230 <b>Additional House Finance Committee Members can be found here:</b> <a href="https://www.wvlegislature.gov/committees/house/HouseCommittee.cfm?Chart=fin">https://www.wvlegislature.gov/committees/house/HouseCommittee.cfm?Chart=fin</a></p>

## SAMPLE TEMPLATES THAT CAN BE MODIFIED TO FIT YOUR SITUATION

### EMAIL TEMPLATES

#### FROM A PARENT OR CAREGIVER

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: *(Governor Justice) (Delegate Criss) (Senator Tarr) (or insert name of other committee member),*

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_ (town). I am the *(parent, family member, etc.)* of a person with a developmental disability.

I am writing because I am very concerned about the 10% budget cuts to the WV I/DD Waiver. These cuts will be devastating to the children and adults with disabilities and their families, including mine. These cuts could ultimately leave my loved one without the much needed services needed to remain in their home.

\_\_\_\_\_ requires assistance with eating, household tasks, transportation, and personal care like showering and other personal hygiene. \_\_\_\_\_ is unable to do those things independently and needs a support person to help with everyday living skills, as well as activities in the community. In addition, my loved one requires 24/7 one-to-one support for *(his/her/their)* safety and if the cuts are made to this program, I do not know how we will be able to do this. Without these services *(I will have to quit my job) (my loved one's caregiver will have to find other work or go on unemployment) (my loved one will not receive the supports he/she needs to remain in my home, etc.)*.

I am asking you to ensure that the \$11 million in state funds are reinstated, so we can also get the additional 75% match in federal funds to use for the I/DD Waiver program so people with disabilities and their families will not have to face the devastating impact that this budget cut will have on the critical services and supports.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your email, Your phone number

FROM A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: *(Governor Justice) (Delegate Criss) (Senator Tarr) (or insert name of other committee member),*

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_ (town).

I am writing because I am very concerned about the 10% I/DD Waiver budget cuts to people like me. I am a person with a developmental disability living in the community who relies on these services in order to live. I must have someone to help me live in my home to assist with eating, household tasks, transportation, and personal care like showering and other personal hygiene. I am unable to do those things on my own. I need a support person to help me do activities in the community.

If the cuts are made to this program, I am afraid someone will try to make me live in a place that I do not want to live, and I have the right to remain in my home here in my community.

I am asking you to ensure that the \$11 million in state funds are reinstated, so we can also get the additional 75% match in federal funds to use for the I/DD Waiver program so people with disabilities and their families will not have to face the devastating impact that this budget cut will have on the critical services and supports.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your email, Your phone number

## PHONE CALL TEMPLATE

Hello *(Governor Justice) (Delegate Criss) (Senator Tarr) (or insert name of other committee member),*

this is \_\_\_\_\_ *(your name)* and I live in *(town)* in West Virginia.

I am calling to tell you that *(read the message that you created from the email template)*.

If you would like to call me back to discuss, I can be reached at *(xxx-xxx-xxxx phone number)*.

Thank you for your time.