

Sign the National Petition to seek an End to Waiting Lists and provide Portability of Services throughout the Country. www.NOEWAIT.net

This past year the PA Waiting List Campaign joined the leadership of NOEWAIT, *The National Organization to End the Waitlist* – a grass roots group of energetic families and volunteers with thousands of followers across the United States.— NOEWAIT has recognized that the issues of people waiting for services is not secluded to one state and in fact almost every state in our country has people and families waiting desperately for services and supports.

The United States has more than 54 million Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including conditions such as Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Down Syndrome and Autism. These individuals need to receive services in their homes or in small community-based programs. Not enough funds are appropriated by state legislatures to meet everyone's needs. The only entitlement in many states presently available is expensive, inadequate and unwanted institutional care.

If you know someone waiting for services then you know how difficult it is for them and their families. Many parents have to quit their jobs to provide the needed care. Financial and emotional strain on families leads to despair and often reaches a crisis, especially among parents in their 70s and 80s.

In addition people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families cannot move freely from state to state if they are presently fortunate enough to receive services, because they would go to the bottom of the waiting list in the new state.

NOEWAIT has written a petition calling for President Obama and US Congress to address the problem. As of July 2009, more than 6,800 people signed the petition nationally and there are signers in every state in our Nation.

We are seeking your support to sign onto NOEWAIT'S petition to bring these issues to National attention in Washington to seek an end to waiting lists across the country and also find a mechanism if people want to move from one state to another they will have that right.

Readers may go online to noewait.net and add their names to the petition and also to sign on to become a member of NOEWAIT.

Together we can solve this problem, if enough of us tell our President and elected officials across the USA to come up with a solution. Please take a minute and support this National cause.

Maureen Devaney, Vision for Equality