

The State Budget

What a year and the budget isn't even passed! We are all facing the pinch of the recession in our lives and in our wallets. We were so disappointed when the Governor announced the first state budget and it sustained funding and took 700 people off the waiting list. Little did we know that we would be fighting for this amount of funding after we were bowled over by Senate Bill SB850. SB850 removed all funding from the waiting list and in addition proposed to take away services from 3550 people who were already in service! The Senators who voted for SB850 made us take a fresh look at just where people with disabilities ranked when priorities for funding were made.

You rallied to the call! Your response to Direct Dial made legislators and the Governors office sit up and take notice. Your calls, letters, emails, attendance at rallies made a tremendous impact. So as we go to print, there is still no approved state budget. The Governor has announced his new budget and we are back where we started and glad for it. We are concerned with the \$7.1 million that was removed from the Base funding line. We know that some people's day programs and even residential programs are funded through base. So we need to be vigilant in overseeing what happens to people on the waiting list. We thank you for your support and rallying to the cause