



Jim Frazier

CHAIR, ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, ELEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
CHAIR: TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET
INSURANCE
VETERANS AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

California Legislature

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Philip Y. Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Capitol, Room 6026

Dear Chair Ting,

As Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, I, along with the Select Committee and Budget Sub 1 Committee members signed below, urge you to hold developmental services harmless during this year's extraordinary budget process.

The Lanterman Act provides services and supports to more than 350,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), and this year alone, more than 15,000 new individuals are expected to require these services. The Covid-19 pandemic has made a vulnerable population even more susceptible to health and behavioral crises. The state of California has an obligation - both legal and moral - to fully support and provide adequate funding for this underserved community in our budget.

Historically, services and support for people with I/DD have been overlooked, with high direct support staff turnover due to low wages, long waitlists for early intervention and other services, essential programs closing across the state, and unmanageable regional center caseload ratios. The state's own rate study concluded that DDS services and supports were underfunded by **\$1.8 billion**. That critical need and continued lack of funding is compounded by the current pandemic, resulting in greater need for direct service providers and a much greater need for family supports at home.

Earlier this year I proposed a plan to continue to close the massive underfunding to developmental services and implement the rate study over three years. The recent changes in our budget and your subsequent April 6 memo makes that plan currently untenable. However, reductions to the investments made last year to this community - a community that is still recovering from budget cuts made in the last recession - should not be included in this budget.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen direct support professionals answer the call, risking their own health to continue to support Californians with I/DD. Families and caregivers too face new challenges while sheltering in place with their loved ones with I/DD.



Jim Frazier

CHAIR, ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, ELEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
CHAIR: TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET
INSURANCE
VETERANS AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

California Legislature

If ever there was a time to honor our commitment and obligation to the entire I/DD community and those who are helping to keep them safe and healthy, it is now. We have made modest gains to promote and provide necessary services to this vulnerable population, and any further attempt to erode or eliminate services should not be considered in the cuts that will surely take place in this current budget.

Respectfully,

JIM FRAZIER
Assemblymember, District 11

KEVIN MULLIN
Assemblymember, District 22

CHAD MAYES
Assemblymember, District 42

MARIE WALDRON
Assembly Republican Leader, District 75

DEVON MATHIS
Assemblymember, District 26

JIM PATTERSON
Assemblymember, District 23