

****NOTE** Please write three separate letters, like the sample one below. Address one letter to Governor Brown, one to President Pro Tem De León, and one to Speaker Atkins. Please return your letters to Kathleen Miller at Desert Haven. Assemblyman Tom Lackey will hand deliver them for you to the Governor's Office in Sacramento.**

Date

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Toni Atkins
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

President Pro Tem Kevin De León
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please call each of the three legislators listed here and also write one letter to each using the sample below as a guide. Include your personal story and how this funding crisis impacts you!

Dear Governor Brown,

I strongly urge you to work with Legislative leaders to immediately address the financial crisis that is devastating California's system supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This crisis - due to the lack of adequate funding to service providers and regional centers for most of the last two decades - has only been exacerbated by our failure to address funding in this year's state budget.

The last modest increase of 3% in 2006 was quickly wiped out by more than \$1 billion in cuts brought about by the Great Recession. This extended funding drought has finally led to what should absolutely have been evident all along - major reductions in programs and services for this vulnerable population, which will only grow worse in the very immediate future.

Here in the Antelope Valley, we are seeing the crumbling of service and supports for our loved ones, starting with transportation services, which are crucial within our expansive desert community. Getting reliable and timely transportation to and from appointments and community-based services is just one of many things that has become a system-threatening crisis.

As someone who relies on crucial services facilitated by service providers and regional center, I am pleading with you to not only hear the voices of the tens of thousands of families across California who desperately need a solution, but also to act on behalf of the 280,000 persons with disabilities who are depending on you to uphold the Lanterman Act - California's landmark civil rights law for this population - so that they might enjoy health, safety, and independence just as any other citizen.

We cannot wait another year inasmuch as vital services and supports have already been reduced or have disappeared entirely for many families and individuals.

Please keep the promise of the Lanterman Act and ensure California's most vulnerable residents receive the services and supports they so desperately need.

Sincerely,

Your Signature Here

Type or print your name here
Your street address
City, State and Zip Code