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To:

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Subject: Website email from Candy Jones

Attachments: [STATE DDSN LETTER BUDGET CUTS.doc](#)

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The SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS is the agency that serves people with Mental Retardation, Autism, Head and Spinal Cord Injuries (HASCI) and Related Disabilities in South Carolina. SCDDSN has already received severe budget cuts in the past couple of years (38%) and is currently facing devastating cuts (28%) which would completely cut out ALL in home services to people with disabilities. SCDDSN would lose as much as \$47 Million dollars in funding which currently earns \$110 Million in Medicaid (Federal Matching Funds) for a total of \$157 Million worth of services!!! The Anderson County Disabilities and Special Needs Board serves over 1000 people but with this proposed budget cut it would cut out services for all but about 100 people!!! Anderson also serves people with Mental Retardation, Autism and Head And Spinal Cord Injuries (in Anderson and Oconee Counties). All services to people living in the community receiving Medicaid Waivers(HASCI, MR & Autism and the new Community Supports Waiver) would be gone!!! Not to mention thousands of job losses for people who help care for these people. I believe the impact would be devastating for the entire state of South Carolina. If people lose services, then family members will be forced to either quit their jobs and stay home to care for their disabled family member or place that person in nursing facilities or demand institutions take them. There will be a complete and instant panic among families. Not only family members be forced to quit their jobs but thousands of workers from local Disabilities Boards (like me) across the state will lose their jobs as a result. Not just from the HASCI Division but from the Divisions who serve people with Mental Retardation and Autism. Thousands more jobs will be lost from providers of Medicaid Waiver services such as Personal Care Aids, Attendants, Nurses, Assistive Technology and Medical Suppliers SUCH AS BRYANT'S PHARM AND SUPPLY. Many Disability Board staff members have already been laid off and those that remain are under stress with the increase work loads but this is nothing in comparison with the stress it will create when almost everyone loses their jobs (if the agency isn't forced to shut down completely). These are not just budget cuts and numbers; these are people and lives that will forever be altered if this budget cut goes through!

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