

I'm writing to strongly support the Special Appropriation of \$250,000 to the FY26 Operating Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services' Respite Care Program. This funding is critical to ensuring that families caring for loved ones with disabilities have access to the short-term relief that is so urgently needed. Our 20-year-old son Andrew is autistic, and the respite care made possible by DHHS funds allows us to take a break from caring for him full-time and to recharge our strength and spirit so that we can be more effective and loving when we are caring for him. It also lets him get a break from us to interact with others in the community, learn new things, and experience new adventures. The DHHS Respite Care Program is essential to the well-being and success of so many families caring for loved ones with disabilities—please vote to increase funding for this wonderful program in FY26 and beyond.

Thank you!

James Saulsbury