I am writing as your constituent and as a concerned citizen with regards to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. My family and I are gravely concerned by Governor Moore’s proposed $200 million in dangerous cuts and reductions to services and supports for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). These cuts will be devastating and will significantly impede their ability to live, work, play and pray in their home communities. My colleagues, neighbors, and friends with IDD, our most vulnerable citizens, will be put in immediate and unimaginable danger while the State’s budget gets balanced.

My family supports CSAAC, a Montgomery County-based provider of IDD services and supports. CSAAC provides an array of services to people with IDD, such as residential supports, behavioral and mental health services, job training and coaching, and other community based services. Proposed cuts will immediately reduce CSAAC’s funding by *at least* 25%- 30 % and *at least* $25,000,000 - $28,000,000. The impact on CSAAC’s workforce—namely the direct support professionals (DSPs) on whom individuals with IDD rely on for literally everything—would be crushing. Among the most severe cuts (which actually are effective *in the current fiscal year*!) are:

* Dramatic reductions in “dedicated supports”, used by citizens with IDD whose behavioral/mental and/or medical health needs require additional services for safety.
* Elimination of the longstanding “geographic differential” rates that are paid to providers of services in Montgomery County and five other high cost of living and cost of doing business Maryland counties.
* Cuts to what Marylanders with IDD are able to pay for their essential direct support professionals, without whom, most simply, they have NO SERVICES.

We can’t possibly expect to balance the State budget on the backs of Marylanders with IDD! They deserve better. Please fight for them. Say **NO!** to Governor Moore’s budget. Say **NO!** to regressive policy and the shocking de-prioritization of Maryland citizens with IDD.

Thank you for your advocacy for your constituents with IDD and their families.

Sincerely,

[Name, address, phone number]