

(INSTRUCTIONS TO COPY LETTER: To copy and paste this letter onto a Word document, click EDIT and then SELECT ALL. Open a blank Word document and click PASTE on your toolbar. The letter will appear and you can format and personalize it.)

(Sample Letter)

(Date)

Assembly Member Bob Blumenfeld
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Blumenfeld,

My (son/daughter) was born with a developmental disability and (he/she) needs your help right now. I have always known that our family's life would revolve around the special circumstances of (first name of your family member). While the responsibilities are great – so are the rewards and life lessons our family has gained. But, in addition to our family, we have had very vital help from AbilityFirst. Frankly, we could not meet all of our child's needs alone.

The State has already cut AbilityFirst's funding and the funding of all of the organizations like it throughout the state. The total cuts to these organizations are in the hundreds of millions of dollars. They are teetering on the brink of collapse. If my (son/daughter's program) closes, he/she will be devastated, and I will be at a complete loss about what to do. And now the Governor has proposed \$234 million more in cuts. I am truly afraid for our future.

I know that more cuts are coming, but I urge you to insist that the Governor live up to his promise to make sure every nickel of inefficiency is wrung out of state bureaucracies before any more pain is inflicted on the people who depend on the State for their basic survival. The Governor's proposed budget cuts leave the State's own large, outdated, and nearly empty institutions in place, while they would take away basic services from people who need them. The proposed cuts will gut our small neighborhood service organizations that provide the services while leaving the bureaucracies relatively intact.

Please don't let this happen. Please stand up for us in your budget negotiations. Please demand that any required reductions are focused on consolidations and efficiencies in administrative activities.

Thank you very much for giving this plea your serious consideration.

Sincerely,
(Your name and address)