

## **URGENT! ACTION REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY!**

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY:**

Governor Rick Scott plans to cut to services for developmentally disabled by slashing rates and shift funds to get A.P.D. out of \$170 million hole. Scott is planning to invoke his 'emergency powers' and make deep cuts to the rates that group homes and case workers are paid. Scott could announce a 15% rate cut as early as today to close the budget gap. Lawmakers were briefed last Wed.

The deficit is partly the legacy of lawsuits, poor planning by the legislature and a nearly \$20 million veto by Charlie Crist, who starved the program of savings when he refused to trim provider rates last summer because it would de-stabilize the entire service system.

"This would be a catastrophe," said Kingsley Ross, an advocate and lobbyist. For the past three years providers have shouldered rate cuts, they are now operating on the thinnest of margins, Ross said. The system cannot take this.

### **OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

This is beyond what any provider can survive! After 5 years of rate reductions, direct and indirect cuts, inflation, and rises in business costs, the Governor wants to cut rates again, without warning, by additional 15%! This is irresponsible, dangerous, and clearly going to do unfathomable harm to the developmentally disabled consumers we serve, and the organizations statewide like Angels Unaware, Inc., who have faithfully served the disabled citizens of Florida for over 38 years.

Governor Scott needs to be held accountable for his actions. Start cutting by eliminating the bureaucracy from top to bottom first and the services that do not directly provide "hands on" care to the developmentally disabled before you cut the organizations and people that are actually providing the care daily to these disabled individuals. BUREAUCACY DOES NOT CARE FOR, FEED, BATH, DRESS, PROVIDE A HOME, ACTIVITIES, MEDICATIONS, AND LOVE DAILY FOR YOUR DISABLED CHILDREN. WE DO - OUR STAFF DOES.

### **ACTION REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY**

Call the Governor's Office, every State Representative, every State Senator, your local newspaper and television stations every day until this is stopped. Tell your story, and what the cuts will mean to you, especially if Group Homes are no longer able to continue. Go to their offices locally. Wait until they or their aides will see you. This is urgent, if you do not act, our consumers and all of us will lose. **We can not survive this!**

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