

SAMPLE LETTER #3
CONCERNING STATE BUDGET FUNDING/ISSUES

Governor's Name
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear:

I work in a community-based program in San Diego that assists individuals with developmental disabilities to work in real jobs in the community. Given ongoing support ~ training, these individuals have become active, contributing members of the San Diego work force. However, due to the continued lack of funding to programs such as ours, our ability to continue to provide this valuable service is in jeopardy.

As an advocate for people with disabilities, I am very concerned that the State Budget contains no additional funds for community based services. Each day over 50 job conches from TMI are in the community helping to provide on the job support to adults working in paid positions throughout San Diego County. Without their support, many would be unable to maintain their employment.

TMI cannot provide high quality services to people with disabilities based on current reimbursement rates. We are struggling to attract, retain, and train qualified staff to serve people with disabilities. The average wage paid to dedicated staff remains less than \$20,000.00 a year. increases in rent, energy bills, transportation costs and compliance with laws and regulations impact TMI the same way they impact other small businesses and families. We have held things together by paying poverty level wages to staff and it has become nearly impossible to meet our staffing needs. We need your help.

Please support (enter budget item names and numbers you are advocating) and make a commitmen to continue to provide this support for the next 5 years. As a service provider in California, TMI is committed to improving the quality of lives of people with developmental disabilities, but we cam-do this alone. Please help us to provide quality services by investing in staff who work to make a difference in peoples' lives each day.

Thank you in advance for your support. We are counting on you to do the right thing.