

## When You Cut \$24 Million from Programs for the Developmentally Disabled...

# Here's What Happens:

### The Quality of Care Suffers:

Agencies across the state have already **reduced the programming offered to their consumers** - harming both the quality of care and the quality of life for the developmentally disabled. Program consolidations lead to individuals with vastly different needs being mixed together, making it harder for staff to ensure that each person receives the appropriate level of attention and care.

### Staff Wages Are Cut:

The Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) has cut the hourly rate for Direct Support Staff from \$12.03 to **\$10.98**.<sup>1</sup> For a 35-hour workweek, that's an annual income of \$19,983 (before any taxes, etc. are taken out). **For a family of 3, that's barely above the poverty level.**

### Costs Are Shifted Elsewhere:

Agencies have also reacted to the cuts by laying off direct care staff and/or reducing their hours, so that staff who are already paid low wages have an even tougher time making ends meet. They become more likely to access public assistance programs like RItE Care, SNAP, and Unemployment - **which adds costs in other areas of the budget, and negates much of the planned savings.**

## Here's the Solution:

- ☑ Restore the funds NOW.
- ☑ Realize further savings by streamlining excessive administrative costs at the top.
- ☑ Call on the wealthiest Rhode Islanders to pay their fair share of taxes.

## Please Act NOW to Save Quality Care!



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1. BHDDH Memo, 9/1/11 and 1/1/12.