

From: Susan Barduhn [Susan.Barduhn@sit.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 1:01 PM
To: Theresa Utton; Rebecca Buck
Subject: Developmental services in Vermont

I am speaking against the proposed \$4.3 million budget cut in developmental services.

My name is Dr. Susan Barduhn, from East Dummerston. I have a 38-year old nephew-in-law who has a developmental disability. He is supported by the Specialized Service Agency, Families First. I have known him for 13 years. I understand that his school years were very rough, because he didn't seem to fit in anywhere. As an adult he has a full productive life because of the individualized programming and support of Families First. Nathan has been employed for 17 years. He is involved in community activities. His life without support services would be lonely and unproductive. Because of previous budget cuts (\$14.1 million over the past 9 years) he has not had staff or had to double up on staff and was unable to work. The governor's proposed budget has a \$4.3 million reduction in the budget for Developmental Services. This would have a devastating effect on Nathan and Families First. Why is Vermont destroying a program which has been successfully supporting our most vulnerable population?

Developmental services in Vermont are already known for being cost effective. Do not cut any more funding out of the developmental services budget.

Dr. Susan Barduhn
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