



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2009

East End Disability Associates' (EEDA) program participants, staff and family members participated in a vigil on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> in Albany protesting the budget cuts proposed by Governor David Patterson. Many in the field, including EEDA, also made phone calls to our representatives.

EEDA's vigil participants drove 5 hours from eastern Long Island to the executive offices of the state Capital and visited with Long Island Assemblymen Marc S. Alessi and Harvey Weisenberg, Long Island Senators Brian X. Foley, Craig Johnson and Kenneth LaValle to explain how these proposed Medicaid cuts would profoundly and directly affect them. The group was also able to meet with several other New York Assemblymen and Senators as well as an Aide to the Governor.

EEDA is an organization that provides services to over 600 individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities and employs 247 people. EEDA is a small organization funded primarily by Medicaid and committed to providing high quality services to the people it cares for.

Despite the efforts of EEDA, as well as our sister agencies, the Legislature passed Governor Paterson's deficit reduction plan, which included a 5% cut to all Medicaid funded services and a 10% cut to all Non-Medicaid funded services. This cut is a devastating blow to individuals with disabilities and to all non for profit voluntary agencies providing services to those with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

For more information about our lobbying efforts and the impact these cuts will have on our community please contact Lisa Meyer Fertal, CEO at (631) 369-7345 or email [LisaF@eeda.org](mailto:LisaF@eeda.org).

**(Pictures on Attached Pages)**

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