



# Support Services for Citizens with Disabilities Depends on You

**An urgent message from  
Persons with Autism, Developmental Disabilities, Spinal Cord Injury,  
Traumatic Brain Injury and Related Disabilities**



As a father, I'm concerned that budget cuts to DDSN and other related departments could eventually erode the services my son receives - Jeremy Poindexter, Easley, SC

As a self-advocate, I need continued supports and services. Omar Caldwell, Newberry, SC



Please don't cut needed services for my daughter. Amanda Alford, Darlington, SC

We need constant care for him. To cut our needed money is a total disgrace. Sandra DeYoung, Piedmont, SC



Our goal in 2009 is to maintain and restore essential "MUST HAVE" services for individuals with developmental/physical disabilities and their families served by DDSN.

*Cosponsors:*

SC Partnership of Disability Organizations;

SC Autism Society; Brain Injury Alliance of SC; The Arc of SC - Advocates for Special Needs; SC Spinal Cord Injury Association; SC Human Service Providers, Inc.; The Disability Action Center, Inc.; SC Chapter - American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD); SC Respite Coalition; Family Connection of SC; Epilepsy Foundation of SC; Babcock Center Inc.; People on the Go - Self Advocacy; IMPACT SC; PRO-Parents of SC

SC Partnership of Disability Organizations, c/o SC Autism Society, 806 12th Street, West Columbia, SC 29169  
803-750-6988 (office) / 803-750-8121 (fax) / [scas@scautism.org](mailto:scas@scautism.org)



# Support Services for Citizens with Disabilities Depends on You

## An Open Letter to Governor Sanford and the South Carolina General Assembly

The state of South Carolina is inherently responsible for our children and adults with severe lifelong disabilities. We appreciate your past support, and we ask for your continued support in addressing urgent needs that are our top priorities listed below. Please make our priorities your priorities.



---

## 2009 Priority

Our goal in 2009 is to maintain and restore essential “MUST HAVE” services for individuals with developmental/physical disabilities and their families served by DDSN.

- Families need help to care for their loved one with a disability at home. **DAY SUPPORT SERVICES** aid family members to work and earn money, lead normal lives and prevent costly out of home placements.
- Continue providing services through the **PDD PROGRAM** (Pervasive Developmental Disorder) for young children with autism and Asperger syndrome.
- **RESPIRE** and other **IN-HOME SUPPORTS** help families cope with the day to day challenges of caring for our loved ones.
- Self Advocates want **REAL jobs** with real pay.

---

The **SC Partnership of Disability Organizations** is made up of volunteer disability advocacy organizations representing autism, brain injury, mental retardation, and spinal cord injury. Member organizations are the SC Autism Society, Brain Injury Alliance of SC, SC Spinal Cord Injury Association, and The Arc of SC for mental retardation.

Because their constituents share many of the same service needs, the charter organizations joined together to provide leadership in advocating on critical issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities and their families. Collectively, these volunteer organizations speak up for more than 500,000 people with severe lifelong disabilities and their families in South Carolina.

January 2009