

200,000 people need your help.

Please support the *Blueprint* to help Illinois' developmentally disabled.

Dear State Representative and State Senator,

As a constituent of yours, I am excited about a new plan that can fix Illinois' broken system for supporting the some 200,000 Illinoisans with developmental disabilities. Today, nearly 17,000 Illinoisans with developmental disabilities are on a waiting list for supports and services - half of which have a critical or emergency need. Illinois ranks last in the nation in the percentage of people with developmental disabilities living in a community-based setting.

It's time for change. The *Blueprint* provides the General Assembly and policy makers with a seven-year framework to give individuals with developmental disabilities the long-term solutions they need. These comprehensive recommendations would improve the current system by redesigning the state's funding structure to utilize more efficient community-based programs. The *Blueprint* would invest our taxpayer dollars more efficiently so that state money would follow the person.

It's time for leadership. The *Blueprint* will help more people and would eliminate the state's waiting list. The *Blueprint* will put Illinois on the path towards a better future. Change can be difficult but Illinoisans with developmental disabilities deserve better than the status quo.

Reforming Illinois' system through the *Blueprint* makes economic sense and it's the right thing to do. All Illinoisans with developmental disabilities should have the opportunity to live full and happy lives in their communities near their loved ones. Please *Get To Know The Blue* and support its implementation.

Respectfully,

Signature Date

First Name Last Name

Address

City ZIP County

Phone Email

I am a self-advocate I am a parent or family member I am a third-party advocate Other

I am interested in helping implement the *Blueprint*

INSTRUCTIONS:

- (1) Print as many copies of this letter as you need. Have everyone you know complete and sign a copy.
- (2) Fax the completed letters to 312/943-8397 or mail to: John Coorey, 409 W. Huron St., Ste. 600, Chicago, IL 60654
- (3) If you have any questions, please email info@lifemyway.org or visit www.LifeMyWay.org. Thank you.

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