



# Hunter Adkins

816 Sunfish Lakeway, TX 78734

Home (512) 436-9639

Cell (512) 751-5044

hunteradkins123@gmail.com

February 2, 2011

To whom it may concern,

My name is Hunter Adkins. I am 29 years old and live in Lakeway, Texas. I have Cerebral Palsy, which affects my motor skills and balance, causing me to be wheelchair bound. The issue I would like to discuss is budget cuts for the Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) program.

I rely on CLASS to pay for my therapies. I am currently receiving physical therapy, therapeutic horseback riding and massage therapy. I also receive recreational therapy, where I go to the gym or to the pool. These therapies are essential to maintaining my current level of functioning and helping me improve my abilities. For example, they help reduce my high muscle tone, build muscle strength and endurance, improve my balance and maintain joint flexibility. Because of these physical benefits, I am able to help out more with my transfers, I have begun walking short distances for the first time in years and I even stood to dance at a benefit last year!

If you cut the budget by another ten percent, I risk losing the therapies I so desperately need. Without these therapies, my body and my physical abilities will deteriorate. My muscles will become weak and atrophied. I risk losing joint flexibility, which can lead to contractures. My balance would also suffer. I am currently still living with my parents, who, as they get older, will need me to be in top condition and functioning at my best abilities to help them care for me. The total of my service plan for CLASS is \$60,784.40 a year which is far less than the \$197,000 Approximate Annual Average cost of State Supported Living Center services.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I cannot stress enough how important the CLASS program is to me, my family and so many others in my position. I would be more than happy to answer any questions or testify in any hearing regarding the potential cuts.

Respectfully,

Hunter Adkins