

Testimony before the NYS Budget Committee

My name is Anita Cameron, and I am a member of Rochester ADAPT. I am here today to express my deep concern regarding possible cuts in funding for personal care programs for people with disabilities and seniors. These programs are vital for people to remain in their homes and communities.

The institutional bias in long-term care must end. People with disabilities and seniors overwhelmingly prefer to live at home, rather than an institution. States can save millions of dollars by providing care in the home. It seems that the New York State Department of Health is concerned about the level of spending on personal care services. If our state made better use of the various waivers that are already in place, it could save even more money.

Do not cut funding for personal care. We, as people with disabilities and seniors want, and deserve to live in, and to be a part of our communities. Cutting services could relegate many of us into an institutional setting, costing the state more money, and perpetuating the institutional bias that has held so many captive.

Thank you for your time,

Anita Cameron
1 Pleasant Street #622
Rochester, NY 14604