

## A message from the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities --

### Time to Take Action: Help Stop Budget Cuts Proposed for Health and Human Services

Texas state legislators are talking about making major cutbacks to Health and Human Services. If these cutbacks are made, there will be many negative effects made to Texans who have disabilities and older Texans. Life will become even harder than it already is for these individuals. The cutbacks will drastically affect you or someone you care about.

Many times, in situations like this, people hesitate to speak up for themselves because they think their voices won't be heard and they don't know where to begin. Well, we at CTD are trying to make this process easier by supplying you with information that you can take to your county commissioners and your city council that will help them make the case for why their state legislators should oppose these budgets cuts.

### What are these pieces of information?

- As part of the Invest In Community campaign, a **resolution** written by Bob Kafka, of ADAPT that summarizes how cutbacks to Health and Human Services will effect Texans who have disabilities and older Texans. To view/print this resolution, [click here](#).
- A chart declaring exactly how much **your county is proposed to lose** if these cutbacks are made. To check it out, [click here](#).

### How to read the chart of proposed cutbacks

This chart can be overwhelming to anyone at first glance, but once you understand what these statistics mean, you will truly be shocked!

Here is a breakdown of what each column is:

Column 1: List of Texas counties

Column 2: The number of millions of dollars that was put aside for Health and Human Services for 2010-2011.

Column 3: The number of millions of dollars that is being proposed to be put aside for Health and Human Services for 2012-2013.

Column 4: The difference (in millions of dollars) between column 2 and column 1.

Column 5: The percentage of what is being cut back for 2012-2013.

Ignore the last three columns because they just aren't as important as these first five columns.

Now that we know what each column is, let's look at an example:

**In Anderson county alone:** There was \$98,900,00 set aside for Health and Human Services in 2010-2011, but it is being proposed that they receive only \$71,000,000 for 2012-2013. This \$27,900,000 reduction is a 28.2% budget cut.

### Steps to talking to your county commissioners and your city council:

1. Call your county commissioner and your city council representative to make appointments speak with them. For a list of all your county officials, [click here](#) and enter your zip code.
2. Before you go to the appointments, print and fill out a copy of the resolution.
  1. **In the 6th paragraph:** Put the name of your county in the first blank. Find your county, go across to the 4th column (Proposed Cut vs. 2010-11 (million \$)), and enter that number in the second blank (be sure to put the word "million" after the number).
  2. **In the 6th paragraph:** Put the name of your county in the blank.

At the appointments, give them the resolution. Show him/her the dollar cut to your county. Briefly explain why this issue is important to you. Remember, you want to make your point clear, short and to the point. Ask them to take it to the county commissioners court or city council for an official vote. If approved, they should send the resolution to their delegation in the State Legislature.

Thank them for their time and for listening to you.