

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Fiscal Generic Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Desert Regional Center Budget Concern  
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To the Members of the Legislative Commission Budget Subcommittee,

I am a mother and resident of Las Vegas. I am advocating for the continued support of individuals with disabilities living in a single Intensive Supported Living Arrangement (ISLA) which is funded by Desert Regional Center. (DRC).

My daughter, Maria Matrone is a life long recipient of DRC Support services. Maria is thirty three years old, intelligent, spirited, has cerebral palsy and is trapped in a non compliant body. Maria needs assistance for all her activities of daily living. Maria communicates using eye gaze technology on a speech generating device and uses eye gaze to drive her electric wheel chair.

Maria initially started her independent living with DRC in two failed four bedroom ISLA's. The first four bedroom placement had 2 residents with violent behaviors. On day three of Maria moving in one resident assaulted the other, was arrested and jailed. The home was so turbulent community activities could not be accomplished and Maria returned home after three months. The second 4 bedroom ISLA created physical and mental stress from non welcoming roommates. This situation caused a mouth full of stress ulcers, she lost twenty pounds, was hospitalized and had a g tube placed. Months later a Baclofen pump was implanted for spasticity and Maria is now on a cocktail of psychiatric medications that she remains on to this day. She again returned to my home.

The next attempt at independence was placement in a her own rented home with a peer roommate and DRC supported her in her own ISLA for almost two years.

Maria then found Betty's Village, an innovative, inclusive community and she has been successfully living there in her own apartment with ISLA supports for over three years. Betty's Village has provided a safe community for her to navigate her environment in her power chair for night driving. It has a community of welcoming peers, neighbors and activities like no other place she has ever experienced. Maria has the supports of Aspen Care, has her own emotional support cat and has never been happier or more well adjusted. It truly was thought to be an environment where she could age in place and I would rest assured she would be safe and supported in her home after I was no longer alive.

DRC has informed me recently that they will evict Maria from her ISLA here at Betty's. They stated, due to funding, she will need to return to a 3 or 4 bedroom group home in the community.

I am writing this to request that the state continue to support these success stories like my daughter in her ISLA here at Betty's Village. This affects 6 other neighbors in Betty's and approximately 90 DRC recipients living in their own ISLA's across the state. Evicting them from their current homes will be emotionally disruptive and may cause undue harm to their wellbeing and safety. Individuals who are more severely physically challenged and need

additional support should be afforded the same opportunities as their peers who are capable to physically function on their own. This especially applies to those who have had failed experiences in 4 bedroom group homes under DRC.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Respectfully  
Carol Matrone  
Mother of Maria Matrone