

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Governor of Illinois  
Office of the Governor  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing you today because I was shocked by your press conference on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> to hear that Lekotek services for families who have children with disabilities was completely zeroed out in this year's budget.

(In this paragraph or two write about why your family needs Lekotek and how they have been essential for your family or for your child's improvement, development, etc. How has Lekotek improved your family's or child's life?) Lekotek has been a godsend to my family. My daughter A was diagnosed with a \_\_\_\_\_ disorder at age \_\_\_\_\_. Lekotek's services helped us to learn how to play with and engage \_\_\_\_\_ better. Every month she would meet with a Lekotek Play Specialist who helps us to choose toys that were most appropriate to keep her engaged and learning. Also because of Lekotek's toy lending library we were able to borrow appropriate toys and rotate through different toys which maintained Anita's interest and allowed her more variety and freshness than we would have been able to afford on our own.

Raising a child with special needs is expensive, time consuming and rewarding, and my family needs support like the support that Lekotek provides. I thought that your message was one of shared sacrifice in these hard times. But my family and the other families who have come to rely on the support that Lekotek brings our children and families are the ones who will see a complete loss of services while other programs will see little to no cuts. This strikes me as unfair and contrary to your public statements. You restored \$85 million to Early Childhood Education. Lekotek serves a similar need for the families of children who have developmental disabilities. Why did it not see any restoration of funds?

In the spirit of shared sacrifice that you spoke of I ask that you reconsider the total elimination of funding for Lekotek services for families and children in the FY'10 budget. Lekotek is an invaluable service to children with special needs and their families. It is not just a program we want to save; it is a service that is needed.

Thank You,

Sender's name

Sender's contact info

CC: State Senator XXXX  
State Representative XXXX