

SENATE REMONSTRANCE NO. 1

Whereas, the \$2.5 million reduction in state funding has the potential of devastating the operations of Centers for Independent Living (CIL), causing layoffs, reduction in services and possible closure of some CILs; and

Whereas, CILs are the most cost efficient, effective, and prudent providers of opportunities and services to people with disabilities. They offer a range of services to anyone regardless of disability and help encourage and develop in Missouri citizens with disability a sense of identity, independence, and initiative; and

Whereas, CILs provide training, socialization, employment, and other services based on five core services upon which the IL grant is based. By so severely cutting those funds, we put at risk these unique opportunities for people with disabilities which are all too rare and often unavailable any where else; and

Whereas, there is great misunderstanding concerning these organizations and that ignorance has led to CILs being taken for granted. The IL grant is wholly different and completely separate from any contract services (such as Medicaid home and community based services) or other grants for which a CIL may qualify. CILs are nonprofits whose primary concern is mission not money; and

Whereas, last year CILs served 25,118 and were already extremely underfunded. The current cut will mean a 41% cut in services offered by CILs with only 14,820 being served next year; and

Whereas, CILs across the state are at risk of closing; and

Whereas, the 22 CILs in Missouri employ 245 staff. This \$2.5 million dollar cut may result in approximately a 37% reduction in staff or 90 people losing their jobs; and

Whereas, the average funding level for each CIL will decrease from \$203,897 to \$120,059; and

Whereas, because the progress which resulted in the establishment of Centers for Independent Living was the result of protracted struggle, self-sacrifice, patient negotiation, and the hope of building more equitable communities is now at risk, it should be understood in no uncertain terms what is at risk in our state because of the impact of these cuts:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby remonstrate against cutting CIL funding.