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Counting on support from governor and lawmakers

Re “Planning for my vulnerable son’s future without me” (Ideas, Oct. 22): Susan Hall’s moving essay about being the mother of an adult child with developmental disabilities and the challenges parents face when grappling with their own mortality underscores the need for comprehensive social service support for these families.

I applaud Governor Maura Healey’s budget for fiscal 2024, in which she increases funding for the Department of Developmental Services, particularly in the areas of family respite support and resources for young adults turning 22. However, funding to support those aging with developmental disabilities hasn’t budged from \$100,000 since fiscal 2021.

In reading Healey’s recommendations for the “Aging with Developmental Disabilities” line item, I’m heartened by her goal that DDS identify medical care coordination models, train direct care staff to identify dementia and other age-related conditions, and collect data that identify initiatives and best practices to serve this unique aging population. I’m also encouraged to see an ambitious goal to roll out plans as soon as fiscal 2025.

Hall and parents like her deserve peace knowing that their aging adult children with disabilities will be cared for when they can no longer do so. With Healey and Beacon Hill’s support, we can offer these families a path forward.

ANNE-MARIE BAJWA
President and CEO
Charles River Center
Needham