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**LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP STARTS FUNDING INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

*Will Aim to Bring Funding Fairness for Crucially Needed Services*

XXXXXXX, IL – With funding for intellectual and developmental disabilities increasingly scarce, local citizens have come together to form a new group, promoting a ballot referendum to ensure that crucial resources will be there in the future.

Currently, over 50,000 children and adults in Illinois are waiting for Medicaid-funded services and over 28,000 children currently in Special Education programs, will require adult services over the next ten years. Over the past decade, only 8,000 people have been selected from a waiting list, with the majority facing a 7-8 year wait, if they are even selected at all.

“With the constant strain on state and local budgets in Illinois, many people in our community are needlessly being left behind,” said Jane Smith, Chair of the Funding Fairness in Our Community Coalition. “For as little as $2.75 per month, per household, we can keep these funds in our community to provide crucial support for those who need it most.”

The funding fairness referendum, to be placed on the ballot this spring, will ask voters to authorize a levy of XX%, or a total cost of $33 per year.

“Now, more than ever, we need to help friends and neighbors in our community to bring reliable and sustainable services to our community,” added Smith. “It would be a shame to pass up this opportunity to provide a fair playing field for all of our residents.”