

## ***Aid for retarded must be increased***

Parents of our retarded sons and daughters in the Staten Island community are heading for trouble and the sons and daughters of those same parents are heading for more serious trouble unless Gov. Carey's 1982-83 budget for the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities is increased.

Experience over the past years has demonstrated that whenever the country or any state is in economic stress, services to its retarded citizens are the first to rapidly deteriorate and unfortunately these same citizens with disabilities have rarely any part in the decision-making process.

Ronald Reagan is adamant in his injudicious budget cuts and he is in Washington, but Carey, who is similarly apathetic, is in Albany; he can be made to listen if parents are interested enough in protecting their children by opposing these devastating cuts. Every son, daughter and relative will be affected through cuts in workshops, day treatment programs and recreational activities. Many doors will be closed if the proposed budget holds.

Parent support in the past has been pitiful and the response to the latest threat has been sparse to date; too little response will leave many of our sons and daughters listening to their record players or sitting before a TV.

Get on the stick and attend a meeting tomorrow at the Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children Vocational Training Center at 215 Bay St. in Tompkinsville. Two sessions will be held — one from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., and the second from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Don't let our sons and daughters down.

**CHARLES J. SULLIVAN**  
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## **Club discusses group homes**

The question of community opposition to group homes was discussed at a meeting of the Exceptional Children's Social Club last night in the Holy Rosary School hall, South Beach.

Among the other topics discussed were the club's bowling journal, the swimming program, the father-and-son bowling event scheduled for April 17 and other club activities.

Corned beef sandwiches were served to the members to mark St. Patrick's Day.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21 in the school hall.