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LETTER: 'No' vote would result in lost services

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Dear Editor: Voters in Alabama go to the polls on Sept. 18 to vote on a proposed constitutional amendment, Amendment 1. The Arc of Tuscaloosa County is joining with The Arc of Alabama, Keep Alabama Working, and other organizations to urge you to vote yes on Amendment 1.

The Alabama Trust Fund was established in 1982 and is funded by royalty payments received each month from oil and gas companies for offshore tracts. With a current market value of \$2.48 billion, the money is essentially a "rainy day" fund for Alabama.

Failure of the amendment would result in the Department of Mental Health making a 17 percent cut. Services would be cut dramatically. Approximately 16,000 people who suffer from severe mental illness and developmental disabilities will lose services. This is in addition to the 3,000 people with developmental disabilities who are currently on a waiting list for services.

For information, go to www.treasury.state.al.us/Content/07ATFpage.htm or www.KeepAlabama

Working.com. Inform yourself, and you'll vote yes to Amendment 1 on Sept. 18.

Ryan Delfin, Executive Director

The Arc of Tuscaloosa County

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