

Honorable Chair and Members of the Finance Committee

My name is Belva Green and Jason Green is my son and is in house 8 at Montgomery Developmental Center. All of the people in this house are very low functioning; none are verbal. Two came from Orient center where they were badly abused. One they took his eyes out because of his aggressive behavior. Once he moved into Montgomery center, he is functioning better. My son, Jason, needs 24 hour medical care because of his diabetes. Even with all of his medications, his blood sugar can take a dip at any time and must be watched constantly.

Jason was in a home in Preble County and he was molested and beaten up. He also tore his room all to pieces because of the treatment there. He was probated by Preble County Court into Montgomery center in 2001. Since then, he has been very happy and likes to stay there instead of coming home to me.

I object to closing these centers for the mentally handicapped citizens. It takes so long for them to adjust to their new environment. Some have severe disabilities and complex behaviors and cannot function in the community homes. Closing centers will take away their safety net.

As I talk with differently parents who have already moved their loved one out of Montgomery center, they have had problems with abuses in the community. So, this leaves me to question if the push by Mr. John Martin to close developmental centers is a sound one.

If the center closures are allowed to happen, the results will be horrible and the long-term damage is irreparable. I urge you help us keep these centers as a choice for families.

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