

My name is Nancy Lubanovich. I live at 505 Pease Drive, New Carlisle, Ohio 45344. I am testifying today in the hopes that my daughter's story will help you understand just how important it is for her to be able to make her own choices in her needs and life.

Sancy is developmentally disabled. She functions at a third grade level. Therefore she is pretty able to understand what the coming budget will do to her life and the people in it.

The first part of her objection would be, not having a closed work shop to work in. She is very proud of her work on cargo netting for the Air Force. I'm told that the Air Force use to throw out the nets before we started repairing them and saving them money. We have to ride by the base frequent to see *Her* airplanes. She feels a real pride in her work, and that she is helping the war effort. We fly flags on two poles at home as she is very patriotic.

She has worked out in the public at various places before coming to TAC. People for the most part have treated her fairly and kind. The main objection she has to working outside of TAC is not having anyone like herself to become friends with. Of course, she feels safe there, much more than working out in the public. Sancy's speech is very difficult to understand which means she has to repeat herself, making her feel small and inferior. This isn't a problem at TAC as there are a lot of people that have problems and everyone just accepts it as a part of life. No one looks at anyone as being different or dumb. Time after time in Sancy's IP they ask her if she would like to work elsewhere. The answer is always a resounding NO!

The second part would be, not having an Independent provider. Over the years we have tried to work with various companies and it just hasn't work out well at all. There just isn't the care and devotion that the Independent providers have shown consistently. These Independent providers give our children a sense of caring and that they are really fantastic children, not just different. They go out of their way to find new hobbies and recreational things to do. It's a lot different working for a company then working on your own. We have never been able to keep a company for any length of time. Even during those times, the provider within the company has changed from person to person. My daughter doesn't take change well, as most of our children don't.

Thirdly, I have a cousin with cerebral palsy living at Mueller. He worked at Quest with joy and a happiness that was missing from his life before. To close this fine facility and move him would be a huge mistake. The same mistake they made closing Springhill. I would like to know how many of those people are happy and not on the streets now. The Sheriff is telling us that a good many of his jails are overflowing with these people. There is no other place for them to go. Can't we learn anything from the past mistakes we made?

I have tried to find out just who has decided this is best for our children. No one seems to know. Or they don't want to say. Have they ever been to see our children working at TAC? Have they talked with our Independent providers? Or Company providers? Please don't upset something that is working for so many people. Take each individual case by case. You can't lump people together and hope to have them well taken care of.

I can't begin to understand the problems you face with this budget proceedings. I can only hope that our words will help you as you undertake this huge effort. Thank you.