

State of Ohio Budget Proposals Regarding Dept. of Developmental Disabilities

My name is Judy Salcedo and I live at 14301 Bidwell Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. My phone number is 216-671-4981.

Cathy, my 62 year old sister who is non-verbal, has lived in an ICF home in Lakewood, Ohio for the past 6 years having moved from a similar home in Stow, Ohio. After our parents died she moved closer to me since I am her guardian. She needs the services that are provided in the ICF home setting. She enjoys being with family for a brief time, but is all smiles when she knows she is going home. She loves the ladies she lives with and they love her.

During the week, Cathy attends the day program at Bridges Rehabilitation Services in Middleburg Hts. There she is happy and engages in a variety of activities of her choosing. She works with other autistic individuals and is surrounded by staff and others who understand and care about her and her well-being.

Although she doesn't talk and neither reads nor writes, she can make her choices known - but it takes people a lot of time to get to know her and understand her choices.

Consistency and **routine** are two words I would use to describe my sister's needs. *Consistency* in the staff that care for her and that she trusts and the people she lives with. *Routine* in what happens daily at the home and at the day program.

Her home and day program provide both *consistency* and *routine*.

If ICF homes are reduced and/or closed and day programs and sheltered workshops are closed, what choices are she and others like her being offered? They have the right to have their living situation, as well as their day programs, funded --- at least at their current levels.

Senators, I urge you to please consider and protect the special needs and rights of these individuals as you draft the state of Ohio's future budget proposals for the Dept. of Developmental Disabilities.