

Chair Burke, Ranking Member Cafaro and Members of the Senate Medicaid, Committee, my name is Ora Davidson of New Madison, Ohio. I want to thank the committee for allowing me to speak on the closure of Ohio's Development Centers and the Closure Committee. I'm speaking on behalf of my son Marlon Davidson who lives at the Montgomery County Facility. When Marlon was born he had a cord around his neck causing oxygen deprivation. Doctor's told me that he wouldn't live past puberty. Marlon is now 47 yrs old and I owe that to the care he received from the Development Centers. Marlon's IQ is that of an 18 month old. Marlon cannot talk except in one letter words and that is few and far between. He has seizure's, cannot walk and is in a wheelchair, no teeth so his food has to be ground, he wears AFO's to prevent drawing and freezing up, hypothyroidism, osteoporosis, overactive bladder. He could not tell you if he was in pain, hungry, hot or cold or been abused. Marlon is total care 24/7, for the things that is required for daily living he cannot do. If I move Marlon to another Development Center (because that is where he receives the best care), another resident will be moved out to make place for my son, and what parent would won't that on their conscious?

I'm speaking from experience and unless you have went thru and seen the thing's I have seen you wouldn't know because of the Privacy Act. I would like to tell you about my brother-in-law, George Burtrum who was mentally retarded and mentally ill (duel accessed). My wife and I took bad advice from a lawyer and didn't get guardianship over George. He was in community setting. When his behavior's became to much for the group home he was moved to another for a total of 27 times. The last move was to Geneva, Ohio where he died. Case management called one day and told us where she had put him. We were used to seeing George every week end. All George ever wanted was to be stable and a home. He was 49 years old, and there is a lesson to be learned on how the system work's. My wife and I learned the hard way.

As President of a Chartered Church I am speaking from experience. I'm sure there are good homes in the community, but by the 3rd week, if not before the client's run out of money. The finances is just

not there to buy food and clothing by the time they pay their bills.
Client's have to come to the Church Food Banks which we welcome.
But the only way you know these thing's is by experience.
In closing, I'd appreciate your support in keeping the Development
Centers open ,not just for my son but because it is the right and
humane thing to do because Ohio need's them.

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