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Honorable Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Manning and Ranking  
Member Cafaro

I am Mary Cool. My son, Randy Cool, is 52 years old. He was admitted to the Montgomery Developmental Center on March 5th, 1991. He has moderate intellectual disability. He is on medication for his aggressions. I visit my son every week. He is able to go out to restaurants to eat dinner with me. He loves living in the Montgomery center, and this is home to him. He has good care there. Nurses 24 hours there to give him his medications. Also, they provide transportation to take him to the dentist and doctors, and also to workshop.

When my son was 21 years old, he was sent to the Columbus Developmental Center from the old Dayton Developmental Center which is no longer there. He had bad experience with those two centers.

I want my son to live in the Montgomery center and do not want to see it close. The staff are very good to him. They take excellent care of him, and they are also very friendly and helpful. The staff keeps him clean and provides good nutritious diet. They also take him out to dinner sometimes. On birthdays, they have cakes and on holidays, they give treats.

The Montgomery center has a lot of ground for walking and cycling. They took him out to the Air Force museum for a visit, also bowling sometimes. He is already living in the community and is integrated into the community so the Montgomery center is not

an "institution." It is more or less like a community center.

Please, I ask you to keep the House Budget Bill 64 amendments to create a Closure Review Commission, and keep the language in the Bill of Rights that will give the persons with mental disabilities and their families or guardians the right to exercise choices of residence and work. With this, I ask that the Closure Commission includes a parent or guardian to speak for our loved ones who cannot speak for themselves.

Thank you for letting me speak with you about my son's happiness, and please don't close his home.