

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

My name is Pam Rambo. My son Patrick lives at Montgomery Developmental Center. Patrick is 28 years old and severely Autistic. We adopted him at age 3 as they had ran out of Foster homes willing to care for him and he was going to be institutionalized. At that time in my eyes an institution was a cold place with bars on the windows and a room to sit in while drugged up to keep a person compliant and out of the way.

Patrick is non verbal and in most ways is at a 2 to 3 year age level. He does not realize when he is in danger and darts out in the street and keeps running. He will barge into strangers homes and ram sack their cupboards and refrigerators and could be in grave danger of being shot or taken to jail. He knows no boundries.

Patrick has explosive behaviors and busts windows and doors out, punches holes in the walls and will attack you for no reason.

He looks like a normal young man his age. He's handsome and until you're around him for a few minutes you wouldn't realize there was a problem with him. His looks could be a great source of danger for him because you cant tell by looking at him that he has profound mental disabilities. He could walk in a store and just steal candy and things he likes because he doesn't know what stealing is and could be hurt or arrested.

Patrick is a runner and it takes many eyes to keep him safe. He knows when you don't like him or treat him like he's retarded and it makes him very angry and upset. At MDC he is treated with respect and dignity. He is not abused in any way and he is loved. He's known the same staff for the entire 8 years he has lived there and they are his 2nd family.

We love our son very much. If he is moved into a group home it can't work. If it could, we'd still have him home with us. We also don't want him moving hours away where we can't check on him or see him regularly. He can't even talk to us on the phone. He comes home one day a week but refuses to stay the night because he wants to be in his own bed in his own

house. And it is a house, not an institution. How would we bring him home and then have to take him back on the same day if we were far from his residence?

He has a track to walk on, a swimming pool, a gymnasium, and other amenities in a community type setting that is perfect for him.

I cannot say enough good things about the staff. There are no set times to visit. We go when ever we want too. The nurses, and care givers love him. He loves them. Why is he being evicted from his home? We as parents and loved ones feel that we are the most capable of deciding the safest and most suitable place for our family members to live. We know their needs best. They deserve choice the same as you and I.

His medications have been decreased since he moved there. He is never over medicated, which is what they do in places where they can't control them.

Our family is begging you to keep the changes that were made to HB64 concerning using a 13 member closure commission in place. Also, please consider extending the 30 day period to convene a 13 member commission to 90 days in order for a final decision to be made. Thirty days just will not be enough time.

I plead with you to intervene on our loved ones behalf and do what ever has to be done to keep them from being evicted from their homes. They suffer enough with the disabilities that they have to deal with daily. Please keep them safe and loved and give their families peace of mind by making it possible for them to remain in their homes.

Thank you very much.

Pam Rambo
112 Shannon Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402
(937) 397-3913