

Thank you Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Schuring, and Ranking Member Driehaus for allowing me to testify in front of the House Finance Committee today.

My name is Deborah Y. DeBose. My brother, Carl A. Hayes, lives in the Montgomery Development Center. He has been there for 30 years. Carl was 3 years old when he was hit by a care which left him with mental disabilities. When he started school, they realized that he could not learned properly so they got him into the Gardendale school for the mentally challenged. After he graduated there, there was nothing for him to do so he became bored and started having difficult behavior problems. He went off and tried to fight my mother. As a result, he ended up in the Dayton mental hospital to be observed.

After they realized that he was not mentally ill, that he was mentally challenged, they sent him home by himself in a taxi cab so I took him back to the mental hospital, because my mother could not take care of him. After he was back in the mental hospital, they called the police and took him to jail. The media wrote an article on the morning paper, that said no body wants Carl Hayes. After several weeks, they sent him to the Orient institute in Columbus where he lived there for approximately 3 years. When Ohio built the new Montgomery Developmental Center, they moved him here, because the Orient institute was being shut down. Immediately after arriving at the Montgomery center, he took well to the staff and the individuals living there, and loved it and called it his home. They are his extended family - they love him and he loves them too.

When I take him home for the holidays, he does not like it and when evenings come, he wants to go back to be with his friends. He has many medical needs including diabetes. He is on a special

ground diet because he doesn't have teeth. Also the special diet is to help him maintain his weight and to control his diabetic condition. The staff watches him to make sure that his blood sugar is doing well. When they see any slight changes in him, they would immediately call the nurse on ground to take care of him instantly. In the community group home, he will not have the on-site nurse or the well-trained staff to care for his medical needs. Today, he has a caring staff and nurses, and a team of professionals, at the Montgomery center for all of his needs.

I am concerned that out in the community group homes, his medical needs will not be met and his health and his life will be greatly diminished. His behavior will be difficult to manage and he may end up in jail or in a psych ward. He doesn't take well to changes. The transition will be devastating to him, that will set him back years.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak for my brother today, and I urge you to keep the Montgomery center open so there will be a safe, loving home for him and for many of his peers.

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