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Thank you Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Schuring and Ranking Member Driehaus for allowing me to testify in front of the House Finance Committee today. I'm the guardian and mother of Mark Ross, a resident of the Youngstown Developmental Center for 30 years. Mark, 50, is a wonderful son and who has some developmental challenges.

Mark can talk, but only in short sentences and needs help brushing his teeth, combing his hair, and reminders to take a shower. He has some behavioral problems. Mark gets angry his response is often to cover his face. When he's really pushed, he can throw things or hit people.

Mark used to be placed at a different facility, but he hated it there. When we had him on the weekends, he wouldn't want to return to the facility. When we brought Mark to the Youngstown Developmental Center it was an entirely different story. When I dropped him off at the center, he walked in shook all the employees' hands, and said, "mom, its ok. You can go now."

I feel at ease with Mark at YDC. They take very good care of him. The staff makes sure Mark eats right, takes his medicine on time, and gets him to the workshop. I've really appreciated that at YDC if Mark falls, or scratches himself, the staff reaches out to me. They keep keeps me up-to-date on his condition and any changes in his medication that might be require. That

didn't exist at other facilities we've had Mark at. I haven't experienced the same level of service elsewhere.

It would be a real challenge if Mark were to be moved from his home. Around ten years ago we explored moving him to a group home, but within a day or two he must have gotten upset and either threw something or hit someone and he was sent back to YDC. Mark has a serious anxiety issue, and spends a good portion of his day in his room where he feels safe. He has a lot of trouble dealing with large groups of people.

Currently Mark gets to come home every other weekend to spend time with the family, he also gets to come home for the holidays. What really scares me is that if he's moved to a facility farther away, I won't get to see my son very often. Right now he comes home every other weekend and on every holiday. That wouldn't happen if he had to go to Cleveland, especially in the winter time. I can pick him up at the workshop and it's only about 10 minutes from my house. I'm 72 years old and I can't travel long distances like I used to.

I don't want my son moved and don't want YDC closed down. I'm asking for you to reconsider the plan to close down the Youngstown Developmental Center.

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.