

*Good Afternoon,*

Thank you Chairman Ryan, Vice Chair Schuring and Ranking Member Driehaus for allowing me to testify in front of the House Finance Committee today. *I object to the State of Ohio Budget Proposals regarding closures of the Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and facility-based day services and workshops because my granddaughter is housed at one of facilities being closed.*

*I speak on behalf of my daughter because for her - being forced to move, having to start all over again with placement for her daughter has triggered some of the same health issues she suffered that were caused by the unsafe and unhealthy and inhumane treatment she was being subjected to while waiting for placement at the Huber Heights facility.*

*Just to mention a few:*

- *Molested*
- *Over medicated*
- *Overdosed with medication*
- *In facilities where having sex and masturbation was permitted*
- *In the psychic ward of hospitals where she was exposed to vulgar language and sexual situations.*

*Were these important factors not taken into considered which would affect each male and female that is now being forced to move?*

- *Safety-which is not guaranteed*
- *A facility that is appropriate and able to provide the required complex medical services, which will safeguard their health and well-being.*
- *This facility is like a second family for these individuals and for some the only family. Starting over would cause severe medical complications to many of the residents, which are stable now.*
- *The transition itself will be devastating to all because they are not guaranteed that the same services, skilled staff, and all the benefits that they receive here will be available.*
- *Location is a very important factor to us because we are able to come and visit our love ones any time, take them home for holidays and this location is not miles away, causing long distance driving.*

*These citizens are human beings and deserve the right to remain in this setting that is appropriate to their individual needs. By closing this facility you are taking away from the most vulnerable – their rights to a safe haven, a nurturing home and a place that enables them to receive the care they need to function the best they can. This facility gives them the care, the love and support they need in their every day lives.*

*Thank you*

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