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Thank you Chairman Smith and members of the House Finance Committee for allowing me to speak today. I am a mother and guardian of Bill Lusher who lives at YDC and has for 11 years. Before that he was at AppleCreek Developmental Center. Bill has profound disabilities and has a lot of learning disabilities. He has seizures. When he first went there he would have 100 a month and now with the treatment at YDC, it's down to only about 17 in a three-month period. He wears a helmet 24 hours a day. He's nonverbal. He has a gait when he walks because he has osteoporosis and has broken his ankle several times.

Before he went to YDC, he had so many seizures he broke his nose numerous times. He used to flip backwards and slit his skull. He had a procedure where they open up the skull and divide the two sides of the brain and loosen up the lining on each side so the electrical shock can't translate from one side to the other. So for about 10 years he was seizure free, but then it grew over and he's having seizures again. And there's no way to do the surgery. He has so many needs. There is no way he can make it in a waiver setting. He simply has too many medical needs.

He needs help dressing, brushing his teeth, toileting, etc. Other staff don't have the background, the training and the care required to take care of my son. With the state system, we feel like we are being taken care of. The state has responsibility and extreme oversight.

My son is total care and is totally dependent. He's just not group home material. He lived at home until he was 18 years old. Billy has one on one staffing YDC. He's a loner and doesn't like to socialize.

I moved to my current location in Girard when Billy moved to YDC. I'm 70 years old and I don't drive in traffic. I can't imagine him going to Warrensville because I would never see him, and that would be devastating.

Any time I have a concern, I talk to the staff and they say, why don't you come on over? Everything is so personal. They know him. When he has to go the hospital I am so comfortable because they know him and they go with him.

I thought that Billy would be taken care of for the rest of my life and here we are. It just breaks my heart. YDC is the most wonderful place. Please help us keep this center open.

Thank you and I'll answer any questions.