

Honorable Chair and Members of the Finance Committee

I am Linda Tipton. My brother is Lionel Harrison. He was sent to Orient when he was 10 years old. He was there until they closed. He was not treated well there. I'm not sure of his age when he came to Montgomery Development Center, but he has been there for over 20 years. He has difficult behavior problems. He had bowel surgery, and every now and then he has to go get cleaned out. He can't talk to tell you what is wrong. He has seizures, ulcer, eczema, and he has a lot of medical problems. He needs 24 hour care. I am his sister, Linda Tipton. I had to take over guardianship, because my mom has Alzheimer's disease and I take care of her and work 3rd shift. To move him away would be difficult for me to visit him because I visit him every Saturday.

He has excellent and caring staff and nurses at the Montgomery center. They know exactly what his needs are and can care for him with all of his medical issues. If he moves out into the community, he would not have proper care due to his medical condition. It is hard for him to get used to new people, because of his difficult behavior. If he doesn't know you, he would not cooperate and would not take his medication. Also, he can become very agitated and acting out, fighting, kicking, scratching and tearing up the place. When these types of behaviors happen, the private group homes will not be able to handle him and they will call the police. I do not want this to happen to him. At the Montgomery center, they can call in a team to help calm him down.

I hope the state of Ohio will listen to our needs and will not close the Montgomery Developmental Center.

Linda Tipton
4274 Raab Court
Dayton, Ohio 45416
Tel: (937) 275-5997