

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 am Mary Cool. My son, Randy Cool, is 52 years old. He was admitted to the Montgomery Developmental Center on March 5th, 1991. He has moderate intellectual disability. He is on medication for his aggressions. I visit my son every week. He is able to go out to restaurants to eat dinner with me. He loves living in the Montgomery center, and this is home to him. He has good care there. There's nursing 24 hours a day to give him his medications. Also, they provide transportation to take him to the dentist and doctors, and also to workshop.

When my son was 21 years old, he was sent to the Columbus Developmental Center from the old Dayton Developmental Center, which is no longer there. He had a bad experience with those two centers. But the DCs have changed in 30 years and now offer the best treatment around.

I want my son to live in the Montgomery center and do not want to see it close. The staff are very good to him. They take excellent care of him, and they are also very friendly and helpful. The staff keeps him clean and provides him a good nutritious diet. They also take him out to dinner sometimes. On birthdays, they have cakes and on holidays, they give treats.

The Montgomery center has a lot of grounds for walking and cycling. They take him out to the Air Force museum for visits, also bowling sometimes. He is already living in the community and is integrated into the community being at the Montgomery center. It is more or less like a community center.

Thank you for letting me speak to you about my son's happiness,

and please do not close the Montgomery center.

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