

## Members of the full House Finance Committee

April 15, 2015

My name is Roger Dailey; I reside in Enon, Clark County, Ohio. I am the father of a 38-year old man with downs syndrome. My son, Stacy has been employed at TAC Enterprises for the past 16 ½-years. Stacy loves his job and has grown so much since being employed there.

First I would like to thank the members of the State Finance Committee for all of your work, help and support of the disabled community, it does not go unnoticed by us as parents and caregivers.

I would like to address 3 issues to you for your consideration today.

1. *The workplace is more than just a place to work.*
2. *Learning and growth continues in the workplace.*
3. *The proposed transition plan would bring harm.*

If you are like me I'm sure that when you graduated from high school or college you thought that you're needed learning had been accomplished for the most part and now you got to go into the workplace and apply what you had just learned for the last 12-to-16 years. Little did you know at that young age that life itself is a total learning experience that does not end but goes on our entire life. Stacy too has learned much and continues to learn and grow at his workplace at TAC. *[The workplace is more than just a place to work.]*

We "normal" folks often tell ourselves that work is just that work. We try to convince ourselves that it is what we do to get by, support our families and ourselves until we retire, but work is much more than that. It becomes so much more apart of whom we are than just what we do. This of course goes a long way to explain why so many people find themselves feeling empty, unfulfilled even a sense of loss after retirement or even more so when their employment is suddenly ended by downsizing, outsourcing or simply laid-off or fired. *[Learning and growth continues in the workplace.]*

I submit to you, the members of the Full House Finance Committee: That to follow through with the proposed legislation that would in effect; close workshops like TAC Enterprises is wrong and would damage my son Stacy, and so many others like him. That unlike the pleasant picture painted by Disability Rights Ohio and, by Director Martin, who claim that it would be to my son's betterment to "place" him in a "community workplace" that this move instead would force Stacy to simply sit at home or possibly go once or twice a week to some activity center where he may be able to interact with others with games, puzzles and the like but without the full range of meaningful work, growth, development, social and living skills that he now receives at TAC. I submit to you further that Stacy is no more "segregated" at TAC than any of you are in your chosen field, occupation or endeavor. *[The proposed transition plan would bring harm.]*

I am requesting therefore; that you as an empowered committee serving the great State of Ohio move to the limits of your ability, to support and defend the rights and choices of

Stacy and so many others like him, by saying no to this proposed move -- and keep TAC and all of the other safe, productive, living thriving workplaces for people with disabilities open.

In closing; I am aware that the State of Ohio and you as the State Finance Committee are somewhat limited by the requirements and mandates of our Federal Government; Department of Justice and CMS-Medicare/Medicaid, in the scope of what you can or cannot do. I as a parent cannot speak intelligently to these factors, as my information has been very limited. It seems to me that there is a "virtual smoke screen" that obscures the facts. But as there will still, it seems, be "*matching funds*", "*incentives*" earmarked to go to these proposed "outside or community based employers" that this committee would do well to "think outside the box", and explore all avenues and or create avenues so that these funds could be possibly redirected in an effort to keep TAC and other similar facilities open.