Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Christine Brown and I am an individual with a disability who is also an Advocate. I saw in the Budget how you want to have County boards of Developmental Disabilities give information of ICF and have it on the website. But also I heard that you are wanting Service and Support Administrators to ask each person who receives services if they want to live in a ICF every time they contact the county board. I think that is not right to ask because I don't want to be asked about living in an ICF. If someone asked you if you wanted to live in your house or a ICF each time you called them how would you feel?  This will make people with developmental disabilities or their family members less likely to want to call the county board for services.

Also we don’t think it is right to be asking for example a county SSA being required to ask a family with a 3 year old do you want to have your Son or Daughter live with you or live in a ICF. This is going 50 years backwards.

My suggestion is remove this where SSA’s need to inform people about ICF options each time they call and go back to the House version. Again don’t ask a child if they want to live with the family or not. That is not realistic. It costs more living in a ICF then the Community. I would not want to be asked about living in an ICF myself.