

April 26, 2010



To Whom It May Concern:

Considering the fact that I am a man who suffers from slight cerebral palsy as well as working at a Resource Center, this Bill hits home for me. Now, I just don't speak for myself, but for my co-workers, friends and everyone else that will be affected by this as well.

For some of my co-workers, these Resource Centers are the only way to have a job or a social life as well as being able to have a job of their own. By closing down these vital places, it would greatly devastate our livelihoods. For some, financial; for some, social;

and for some it will be both. So I plead that you may strongly reconsider an alternative before a decision is made.

With the shut down of these programs, it would confine some of us to our homes, group homes, nursing homes, shelters and even psychiatric wards. The after effect of cutting these programs out of the budget will lead to even worse problems in the future. By doing this, it will greatly set us backward and not forward.

For years before my time, politicians, moms and dads, friends, etc. fought long and hard to

get people like myself and others a place to work. How will some of us be able to work if this bill passes?? By closing down these centers, you would be blocking off every available opportunity for most of us to have a job. There are some of us like me that would be able to manage, but most of us are not able to hold an outside job and these resource centers are the only thing that helps us have one.

These centers give some of us the comfort and accommodations we need as people with disabilities. If you cut this out of the budget I honestly don't know how some of us will survive. I say this speaking for more than just myself but for those who are unable to speak for themselves. PLEASE UNDERSTAND you will be breaking our backs by doing this. It is ALREADY A STRUGGLE with the cuts done on our Medicaid. You are putting pressure on legs that are already wobbling.

I feel you can't put a price on a persons' livelihood. Please see us as an asset and not as a liability. These faces before you are more than just statistics and numbers. You wouldn't want someone to take your job away, so why take ours?? But I guess that it's easy to take away from people who don't have a voice. But if each of "us" could speak for ourselves, YOU CAN BET WE ALL WOULD BE BEGGING YOU GUYS TO NOT BALANCE MICHIGANS BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF THE DISABLED!!!!

There are also families and others that honestly could care less if we live or die. Some of us are looked down upon and treated like scum of the earth. As harsh as those words are, they ring true. That IS why it is so vital for us to have something we can call our own. I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO TAKE AWAY WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY MINE! AND WHAT THAT IS, IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE MY OWN INDEPENDENCE! By passing Senate Bill 1152, we will have to count YOU as one of "those people". PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THAT WE ALSO VOTE AS WELL! THIS bill I and many others feel is a SLAP IN THE FACE OF ALL THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY AS WELL! WE WILL FALL ON EVEN HARDER TIMES AND WE WILL NOT KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT! PLEASE DON'T PASS THIS BILL!!!!!!!

BELOW THIS LINE ARE QUOTES FROM MY PEERS WHO FEEL THE SAME WAY AS WELL

DONALD: this place gives people their own independence. It keeps us occupied and gives us something to do. It makes us feel worthy of something instead of just sitting home doing nothing all day.

Tracy: I get disability and I need the money because I have 3 family members I have to take care of. Also my husband is disabled and I have a son I'm struggling to put through college.

DEIDRA: this would be very sad because it took me 15 years to find this job! And before then I was in a mental health facility program and that wasn't fun. I don't know what I would do if they close this program.

BERNIE: I feel sad and lonely because I like my friends. I wouldn't know where to work.

Renee: I'm disgruntled about this because Michigan rehabilitation services referred me here and this is my only source of income. I won't have a job and my coworkers are a joy to work with. It's a pleasure to find common ground. It's like a family like environment I would like to keep this place open because it gets me out the house and gives me leisure time. I get treated like a human being. They don't taunt mock or label me. They are very supportive of my goals and aspirations I'm very able bodied.

Robert: this job helps me a lot because it pays my bills, it pays my rent it puts food on my table it helps me so I can go out and get me something I want. So when Christmas gets here or my birthday I can get what I want. I really like this job this place has benefited me by helping others it has also helped me to pay attention to people and how to deal with problems. I have never met nicer people since I came this place is like my second home. If you take this job from me I can't buy Christmas and birthday gifts for my niece. Now what kind of an uncle am I to do something to my niece like that?