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Kathy Cooper

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From: karli vincelli <kvincelli@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 8:05 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: DHS Regulation 14-540

2017 JAN 17 AM 8:38

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Karli Vincelli and I am writing to express my concern regarding changes that are being made to the programs for the developmentally disabled adults in our area. The changes that are being proposed by the Office of Developmental Program of the State of Human Services will cause pre-vocational programs like APS to close. Closure to these types of programs will have a devastating impact on many developmentally disabled adults lives.

As someone who has a cousin with Cerebral Palsy I have seen first hand how community based programs do not work for everyone. My cousin Jenna Mcginty who works at APS has tried the community based program and due to her disabilities It did not work for her. Along with her physical disabilities she also has speech difficulties making it difficult for others to understand her. Jenna was a mess during this time and it was decided that Jenna could not work out in the community. Her parents had the choice to choose the best option for Jenna and that was working at a program like APS. Jenna and I are the same age along with a few other cousins we have and unfortunately Jenna was not able to hit all the same mile stones as the rest of us. As we all went off to college it made Jenna feel left out but that all changed when she got this job. She was excited to brag to all of us how she got a job before the rest of us. She was and still till this day so proud of the work she does. I get weekly calls hearing about the new tasks she working on and how much her paycheck is. Anyone that knows Jenna knows how to put a smile on her face and that is to let her talk about how great her job is. She feels safe, she's surrounded by tons of friends which she has been able to build relationships with outside of work. She is also surrounded by all supervisors who have experience working with developmentally disabled adults. If APS closes Jenna who is only 25 will have to spend the rest of her life with nothing to do. This "One Size Fits All" approach is not realistic.

Please consider working towards getting this program to stay in our community. Please understand the great impact these kind of programs have had on these individuals.

Thank you,

Karli