

## Family Testimony

My brother has been in state facilities since he was a child. He is now in his 60s, non verbal and profoundly disabled. He was at the Mansfield facility for many years before it was closed and he was transferred to a group home. Many of the workers were also transferred to various group homes as well. He adjusted well to the first group home because some of the workers that were with him at Mansfield were also in the group home. We knew he would be well cared for.

Our parents have since passed away. My brother's group home was closed due to budget issues at the time and he was transferred to another group home where a few of the workers had worked with him in the past. He again was getting good care and the workers liked him. My brother was transferred again to another group home to accommodate another person. The people at the new group home did not know him but they made us feel comfortable and welcome. He seems to flourish there and the workers have grown to love him and give him excellent care. He has everything he needs in order to continue flourishing.

PLEASE do not jeopardize his current situation by privatizing any of the group homes. These workers are special and caring people who look after these special individuals. These workers deserve to work. Without them I don't know how my brother would react to his world being disrupted in this manner. How can I be sure that my brother will continue to receive the positive care that he has received in the past into the future. I want my brother to have the best care he could and these workers have shown me that every day.

I implore you to look to other means of balancing the budget without jeopardizing the excellent care that all these disabled people deserve and families expect.

Thank you,

Miriam E. Garcia