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June 2, 2014

TO: SUNSET COMMISSION
RE: RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE SIX STATE SUPPORTED
LIVING CENTERS

As parents of two sons who have lived at Brenham SSLC for the past 39 years, we want to share with you our positive evaluation of their experiences. We have been very pleased with the care and education they have received from the staff over this time. They have benefited from the training and education given by the many staff members. Contrary to the opinion of some advocates, they have learned to live very independent lives over the years. One son has worked part-time at the Sealy Mattress firm for several years and worked for Blue Bell Creamery off campus. The other son has worked in off campus workshop 30 to 40 hours weekly.

They have participated in field trips to Special Olympic events and to sports events in Houston over many years. They have traveled on regular trips to area restaurants and movies in the community and beyond. One son has won several Blue Ribbons for his art work in the adult division at the Washington County Fair. He also has been able to go and display his art work at a local department store.

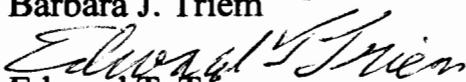
During the past year, one son has had to have surgery for cancer. The doctor and nurses at the Center have given him excellent care. When he was in the hospital for surgery, staff members stayed with him to assist with his care. The nursing staff provided excellent care both at his residence and on trips to Houston to see his doctors.

Both sons participate in the weekly Chapel services led by the Chaplain every Sunday. They also participate in recreational activities and special programs at the Brenham Center. We believe that Brenham SSLC provides the most independent living arrangements for our sons. We believe that all parents and guardians of intellectually disabled persons should continue to have the option to select care at the thirteen SSL Centers.

We are opposed to the recommendation to close six State Supported Living Centers.

Sincerely,


Barbara J. Triem


Edward T. Triem

Cc: Rep. Lois Kolkhorst