

June 3, 2014

San Antonio, TX 78259

The Sunset Commission
P.O. Box 13066
Austin, TX 78711
Re: DADS

JUN 04 2014

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you to express my concern about the Texas facilities for the retarded. The potential closure is my worst fear, as it is for other parents of the retarded. My daughter is at the Austin facility.

In my opinion, clients who are profoundly retarded or have behavior problems should not be placed in community homes. Many will be ostracized because of their behavior.

As a parent, I know of the problems they would face in the community. I've spent hours in doctor's offices waiting to be seen, as my daughter tries to hit her head on walls or furniture. I've had

beauty operators refuse to cut her hair because she throws her head around. She would not be welcome in a swimming pool because she wears diapers. She is very stressed by noise and crowds, something unavoidable in the community.

I am so grateful for the loving care staff members provide in spite of poor funding and occasional sixteen hour work days.

A quotation by Pearl S. Buck,
"The test of a civilization is the way it
cares for its helpless members."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darlene Aldridge