JUN 23 2014

June 20, 2014

Sunset Advisory Commission:

Thank each of you for your time and effort that you have already given in this very valuable endeavor, and for the coming weeks that you make important decisions that affect so many people now and for the undetermined number of families that your decisions will have on their lives for many years.

I live in Amarillo, and my profoundly retarded son, Earl Allen lives in the Lubbock State Supported Living Center and has been there since 1981. He was rejected for care by 3 community facilities before being accepted at the Lubbock Center, and has had excellent care. His acceptance at Lubbock was more than a welcome relief after trying to safely care for his needs until he was 16 years old.

He has 3 siblings that did not have anything resembling a typical family life, but thank for his admission to Lubbock they attained adulthood and are tax paying citizens in Texas.

I wish to mention the daily trials

in a household trying to raise a profoundly retarded individual, and how these trials have a life long impact on the siblings and their success in life.

Little has been said about siblings of the retarded, it has always been focused on the affected person, but there is much to be said about the siblings and their ability or lack of ability to accept the position they are placed in.

Society today, and in the past is quick to comment on anything that is apart from the norm, and it puts an enormous amount of pressure on a young person to be able to shuff the unfavorable comments and actions of unthoughtful individuals, and still maintain a helpful attitude to that one in your own home.

I do not have the ability to analyze the worth and cost of operation the Centers but I know the value that the Hulbach Center has had on my family, and the decisions that your Commission make will have a lasting affect on an undetermined number of people in the future.

Thank you again for all your time and efforts, and please give thoughful consideration for your decisions in the continued operation of our State Supported Living Centers.

Sincerely
Wes Allen

Amarillo, Tx.