

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Dawn Roberson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, May 29, 2014 1:34:17 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 12:41 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, May 29, 2014 - 12:41

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Lynette

Last Name: Fant

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or  
Opposed:

Closing The Austin State Supported Living Center- I oppose the closing of State Independent Living Centers for the following reasons

1. Group Homes for the severely intellectually disabled are often unregulated, ill equipped for providing the proper care and poorly staffed.
2. If these State Supported Living Centers are closed there will be hundreds, if not thousands of severely intellectually disabled people without homes or professionals who are capable of caring for them.
3. At The Austin State Supported Living Center there are residents there who are in their 60's who have been there since childhood. They are happy and well cared for. The staff knows how to work with them. These residents would not comprehend why they have to move from a place they have been all their lives. Closing this center would wreak havoc in their lives and the lives of their families.
4. I have seen some residents of local group homes become so frustrated, due to their lack of communication or language skill, that they become violent. The staff calls law enforcement and these people are sent to jail. They get out of jail. Go back to the same group home and the same thing happens. This is no place for our state's most vulnerable. The The Austin State Supported Living Center know how to handle this population.
5. People with Downs Syndrome have a short life expectancy. There are residents living at The Austin State Supported Living Center who are in their 60's and beyond. If not for the excellent care they have received, their life would have been much shorter.
6. The residents are happy, well cared for, and enjoy social activities that enrich their lives.

7. The medical staff as well as the residential staff stay in close contact with the families and guardians of the residents. There is a true partnership in the care of these people.

To close these centers would do a great disservice to these residents and their families. Please allow State Supported Living Centers to be an option for our community's most vulnerable. Please continue to fund The Austin State Supported Living Center.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Keep The Austin State Supported Living Center open.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree