

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 12, 2014 8:13:59 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 8:10 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 12, 2014 - 08:09

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Doug

Last Name: North

Title: City Council, Position #6

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Webster

State: Texas

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

My name is Doug North, City Council Position #4, Webster, TX. My brother has been living at Richmond State School since he was only about 11, and he is now 45. He has a severe case of mental retardation, and requires 24/7 supervision and care, as he cannot speak, cut up his own food, or clean up after himself, and has accidentally hurt himself in the past. I can say without a doubt that the State Supported Living Centers here in Texas provided my family with the peace of mind that my brother would be properly cared for and taught useful skills that he could use in daily activities on campus. Without the SSLC, our family could not have given my brother the necessary care and educational opportunities for him to lead an enjoyable life. Quite frankly, as my brother got older, I'm not sure our family could have survived the strain of caring for him to the level he requires.

One of the primary reasons my family moved to Texas in 1980 was because of the excellent care the state run schools provide. This is in drastic comparison to the group home environment attempted elsewhere in the country, where residents receive far less hands-on care, and are expected to take care of themselves in many more activities. These group homes could be a viable option for adults with far less mental issues than my brother, but they are still a much higher risk even then as so many have come under investigation for wrong doings due primarily to their hiring practices and lack of supervision.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I am writing in support of keeping the SSLCs open, as this is the ONLY option for so many families with loved ones like my brother. We are realizing growth in the state far beyond anywhere else in the country. We should be

investing more money in the care of our mentally and physically challenged residents, not looking for ways to take their much needed care away.

Please vote for keeping the State Supported Living Centers open, and against abandoning residents like my brother to the substandard care of the group homes that are failures elsewhere in the country.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Douglas North
City Council, Position #4
Webster, TX

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree