

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: State living centers
Date: Thursday, June 26, 2014 1:39:49 PM

From: Hankreddick
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:30 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: State living centers

I am strongly opposed to the proposal to close the state living centers.

I can think of no more cold, hard-hearted, and uncaring action the state could take than to close, as a matter of policy and fiscal concern, the state centers that care for people with disabilities. For people who have no financial resources or suitable family support group, the state represents the collective expression of concern and compassion that all people have. Apparently, all people except the Sunset Advisory Commission. I don't care if the Commission were appointed by Christ Himself (who would NEVER propose such a thing), making a decision such as this is the height of callous disregard for the well-being of people who are incapable of caring for themselves.

Is this the same state that jumps all over itself trying to protect the unborn from the abortion doctor's clutches? If so, it is clear that Texas administrators and elected officials limit their concern to the life of one segment of the community while turning its backs on others. Such actions as this proposed shutdown reek of hypocrisy and invalidate the actions the legislature has taken on behalf of unborn children.

If this proposal represents the policy of the state, what does it expect these people, these fellow human beings afflicted through no fault of their own, to do? To whom do they turn? Didn't Christ say something about caring for the least of us? Humans are born with compassion, but the Advisory Commission seems to have lost that part of its humanity and developed instead a stone-cold heart.

As a fiscal matter, I cannot understand why a state awash in new revenue from oil and business revenues cannot at least maintain the services it already provides. This proposal does not appear to be a request for additional revenues but is only a question of retaining an existing function, a function that strikes at the core of what a state is morally and ethically obliged to do.

Please reconsider this proposal. I write not as someone who has a relative or friend dependent on these services but only as a citizen of the State of Texas who believes we owe it to our selves and our fellow citizens.

Hank Reddick