

Mental Retardation Association of Missouri, Inc.

An Organization of Parents and Friends Working in Behalf of Missouri's Mentally Retarded



March 28, 2010

Senator Scott Rupp
State Capitol, Room 426
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

SUBJECT: Dept. of Mental Health
Division, Developmental Disabilities

Dear Senator Rupp:

RAM is an organization that acts in the best interests of individuals who have severe and profound mental retardation. Their lives depend on State Habilitation Centers (ICFsMR).

My son, Patrick, resides in a state habilitation center. He is diagnosed as being severely mentally retarded and he cannot verbally relate to anyone how he feels or what may be hurting him. Patrick also has "Pica" (ingesting inappropriate items). He requires one on one supervision for his unpredictable behavior.

State Habilitation Centers provide oversight, necessary supervision, caregiver expertise, timely and life-saving services. The federal funds that are earned by the habilitation centers go directly to the State's General Revenue.

The way community providers can save money is by not providing needed services. There is a huge waiting list of developmentally disabled people who require services and placement. Parents/Guardians should have a choice if they want their child in a state habilitation center instead of a community home, where the lack of services may put their family members at risk.

We are respectfully requesting support for Missouri's state habilitation centers. We are asking the legislators to treat the most vulnerable in Missouri as a priority.

Sincerely,
Betty J. Coll
Betty J. Coll
President, RAM
1108 Nectar Dr.
St. Louis, Mo. 63137
867-0509

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Senator Scott Rupp:

CC: Senator Rupp' Committee Members
Governor Nixon
Keith Schafer
Bernard Simons
Mike Stoutimore
Jeff Grosvenor
Senator Tim Green
Repr. Gina Walsh
Repr. Allen Icet
Repr. Bert Atkins
Senator Rob Mayer
MHC
Jerry Ford
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Mary Vitale
Jean Barrett