Options

Center for Independent Living

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 30, 2013

13-058

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

In Re: The Closure of Murray Development Center

Members of the Health Facilities & Services Review Board

As a person with a disability, and an advocate for people with disabilities, I am writing about the proposed closure of Murray Developmental Center. As such my arguments are divided into two phases: a. the law. b. the financial aspects

On June 22, 1999, the United States Supreme Court held in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that unjustified segregation of persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Court held that public entities must provide community-based services to persons with disabilities when (1) such services are appropriate; (2) the affected persons do not oppose community-based treatment; and (3) community-based services can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the public entity and the needs of others who are receiving disability services from the entity. People with disabilities, of any severity, can live independently in the community with the proper services and supports. As a result, fourteen states, including Indiana, Minnesota and Michigan have closed all of their institutions. If it can be done in those states, **it should be done here**.

According to published reports, the annual cost to taxpayers for keeping someone in an institution such as Murray Developmental Center is approximately $ 181,000 per year. The cost of community-based services is approximately $80,000 per person per year, which is a 56% savings. At the same time, jobs at Murray Developmental Center will not be lost, but transferred to the private sector, thus reducing the size of state government.

Closing Murray Developmental Center is the responsible thing to do for the state's fiscal health. With out of control pension liabilities, and the state's inability to pay its bills in a timely manner, substantial cuts need to be made now and the state should discontinue the practice of providing institutional care in lieu of community based services. **Finally, the board should vote to close Murray Developmental because it is the right thing to do for people with disabilities.**

Respectfully submitted,

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