LETTER 1

To whom It May Concern,

Don't cut MARC Center Jobs . . . . .

Cut yours !

R Glasse

Letter 2

8-17-15

To Whom it May Concern

Have you ever visited the Mars Center? If your answer is no - I suggest you go Now. My daughter has been a client at this facility for 32 years. It has grown from a small house on N. Wilbur - Mesa - to the great facility it is today. My daughter doesn't realize that she is different than anybody else. That is because she has a job & she has a paycheck just like her brother & sister. She doesn't care what the amt. of the check is - ~~but~~ because she has a check that is what is important to her. She have has learned to get up on her own - pack her lunch & go to work - Important to her to be "on time."

She and all the rest of the clients are way too advanced to make a switch to a "day program." Brain damage - just happens - We want the best for her & at this time we have it @ the MARC Center. Our society accepts them on this level. She had worked in grocery stores & restaurants - Didn't work well for her - some people take advantage - Not safe. Have a heart!!

Please give this a lot of thought

& Cash taxes elsewhere ——

[redacted]

Letter 3

Mon, Aug 17, 201

Dear Sirs,

Hello. How are you? I am outraged. Is center-based employment ending?

Let me tell you what happened in my life. I jumped off a four-story apartment building, into their swimming pool. To make a long story short - I jumped out too far, and hit the pool ladder on the other side. I woke up two (2) weeks later in a wheelchair.

Again I won't tell you the details of my injuries. But suffice it to say I had total amnesia. I didn't know where I was. I didn't know who I was. I didn't know what had happened.

A nurse walked by me with a very kind smile. So I said to her, "Will I remember this when I wake-up?"

It felt like I was in a dream. You see to this day I am an amnesiac. I cannot compete in a workplace where my competition,

does drugs after work. Tammy, my boss, doesn't need drugs or alcohol to keep control.

Please save center-based employment (CBE) as a future part of the community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Letter 4

22 August 2015
Tucson, Arizona

AHCCCS
℅ Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

I won't be able to attend the meeting on August 26. That is why I am writing this letter.

I don't really understand what you are trying to prove or change, but I do want to tell you the following.

I have 3 daughters - [redacted] who are all mentally handicapped. [redacted] and [redacted] are currently going to Beacon Group. Vicki was going there, but she has been out for awhile because of a medical problem. Altho she has gotten the approval from her doctor to return to work.

Beacon Group has done an excellent job in helping all 3 of them.

[redacted] works on jobs on site at Beacon and she is comfortable doing it. She would not be comfortable with a job off site.

[redacted] has had a couple of jobs off side through Beacon and she does ok with it.

[redacted] was working at jobs on site and she was comfortable with that. She would not be comfortable with a job off site.

Beacon works with each client & helps them according to their individual needs. They have helped my daughters a lot.]

Respectfully,

[redacted]

Letter 5

August 18, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for the continuation of the center-based employment (CBE) option that Marc Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. I am disappointed and frustrated to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my cousin, Patrick Porcarello, has the possibility of being eliminated.

My cousin [redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold gainful employment in competitive community work. However, our family is very proud that he has been working at Marc for about the last 18 months, which is the longest time in his adult life that he has been employed anywhere. Furthermore, Marc offers job coaching and life skills training, so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program Marc offers to disabled individuals. Conversing with [redacted], it is plain to see that he has gained confidence, skills, and a sense of achievement through his time working in the CBE program at Marc, and I hope that you will act to make sure the CBE program continues.

I have heard that there are alternative options available for participants in the CBE program if it is discontinued, but I think it is important that you recognize that these alternatives aren't feasible for Patrick, or many others. First, I would consider a "day program" to be too restrictive for someone like Patrick who wants to contribute to society. Moreover, he might not even qualify for something like that. Second, I would consider community employment to be too risky, and as described above, he has not been able to maintain employment outside of Marc. Marc allows him to explore vocational options in a safe, low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally, which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage.

While the actual money he earns is negligible, his work at Marc is not about the money. Rather, it is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which the Marc Center family has made possible. It is about him having more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at Marc. Marc has given him a purpose to get out of bed in the morning, to shower, shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch, and to arrange his Dial-A-Ride transportation since he cannot drive. All of this gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important.

Finally, what a wonderful feeling it is for [redacted] to go into a store and recognize an item that he had a part in assembling or packaging. In addition to what I have described above, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is what we are most grateful for, thanks to Marc. Marc's CBE program has given him opportunities that would never have been possible.

Taking the above into consideration, I ask that you please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues. I am not an Arizona resident, but I have seen what Marc's CBE program has done for [redacted], and I hope that this valuable program is renewed so that [redacted], and many others, can benefit.

Best Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Let#226

August 19, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

To Whom It May Concern,

My adult nephew, [redacted], has been working at the Marc Center in Mesa for over 18 months in the center-based employment program (CBE.) This is the only job he has been able to keep in his life, and he is over 40 years old! He has been disabled since birth. The work environment has been safe. Not only that, but [redacted] has learned new skills and what it means to be responsible. He has a sense of accomplishment that he was never able to achieve before.

The CBE has been a real "life saver" for [redacted], ever since his mother passed away from cancer just four years ago. He is proud of being able to keep a job. He is happy to go to work at the Marc Center. It gets him out of the house and communicating with other people, both able-bodied and disabled. [redacted] could not maintain a job for non-disabled people, so the Marc Center CBE program is vital for him and for our family.

I am very concerned that you are considering abolishing the CBE program. CBE provides an effective employment option. This would be so detrimental to Pat and others like him, as well as to the entire family structure. If you experienced what it's like to have a mentally or physically disabled person in your family, you would understand the importance of the CBE program at Marc and the need for AHCCS to continue to fund this program.

Thank you for your important consideration and attention to this important matter. Please keep the CBE program funded.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Letter7

From: [redacted]

[redacted]

Dated August 22,2015

TO: AHCCCS / HCBS Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Subject: Elimination of Paid Work Activities

I cannot believe what the State is considering here. What's worse is the fact that you're letting AHCCCS make the determination. That's not very smart. I've never heard of AHCCCS doing anything good. In fact, AHCCCS has screwed its clientele at every opportunity that it gets and let's not even talks about CPS since AHCCCS got placed above that program. It's a joke!

The MARC center has helped more people in this state and it's been around a lot longer than AHCCCS. The programs offered by MARC center give the recipient a feeling of worth. Now AHCCCS is going to attack the one entity that has helped more families and retarded and mentally ill than can be counted. Mesas very own great history wouldn't exist if the MARC center hadn't been there. Mesa needs to be ashamed for even considering this. The Marc center has been responsible for a lot of positive praise for this state and this. I've been waiting on AHCCCS to approve me for freedom TO Work for a year now and they could give a damn less about me.

I, for one don't trust that the state has my best interests at heart and the general public is so damned stupid that they believe anything you tell them.

We have gone from human to sheep. People don't believe in God...politics are corrupted at every angle and nobody has the guts to speak out. You're going to ruin the best part of Mesa by removing these paid activities and what's going to happen to all those poor souls who used to receive services but no longer do?

Fact is, you'll keep chopping up good programs that help people and then you'll wonder why the old crazy person just went berserk and hurt a bunch of people and you'll be oh why did he or she do that??? We all know what happens when you take away all the good things and that leaves a lot of bad things. If a person doesn't get the

attention they used to they will get attention one way or another. What used to end up as good news can become tragedy.

This is how you exhibit your duty of improving the behavioral health program??? This says something completely different than we're dedicated to improving the BHS and we care about your sons and daughters. No...you're telling us that you don't care about anything more than your job and what you look like. When was the last time AHCCCS took a wage freeze or cut? What do public servants do now when there's a program to review? They don't volunteer their own time or wages. In fact...I'll bet AHCCCS gets all the paid holidays and always a wage increase but what do we get here at the benefit recipient end? We get less and fewer benefits and you get more and more money for taking the things that help the most. I mean REALLY...how can you sleep nights?

The powers to be at STATE. Level really needs to focus more on the damned people rather than money or budget cuts. CUT your own budgets but leave ours alone! We get so damned little anyway and now you go gunning to shave us little people even thinner.

AHCCCS... you're doing a great job at making a big mistake. You stooges need to follow the lead taken by the MARC center years ago! They've employed more people and helped more people than AHCCCS and their team of bean counters ever will. You'd be better advised to dissolve AHCCCS and turn that over to the MARC CENTER! If you need THAT fixed I bet the MARC CENTER would have a great solution. Really??? AHCCCS is going to decide the fate of MARC??? Sounds like it should be the other way around. If AHCCCS wasn't so damned unreliable and predictable maybe I'd have been on Freedom to Work about a year ago but I cant seem to get anyone there that cares enough to spend some time making sure the recipients are receiving!!! You take and take and take and when things break you get all stupid and wonder why things ended up a mess.

When will you public servants do what the job title calls for and SERVE THE PUBLIC and not your own agenda of helping yourselves to what we are supposed to get?

How much help was rendered when US Gov't gave you 11.4 million to improve the BHS system back in 2012? I didn't see a thing except people faking stuff. You're ripping off the FEDS and now you're going to rip off the innocent. Somebody is asleep at the wheel and whoever is driving shouldn't have a permit!

Better idea....why not figure a way to help us that are sick of waiting help ourselves into the next world because you are all making this world suck so bad that I yearn for the day Christ returns to fix this corrupted mess forever. Beurocratical bullshit is exactly what this is! And just what makes you American for screwing with a great thing like the legendary MARC center??? AHCCCS is going to fix things? That's a laugh and a joke! They can't get me in the Freedom to Work program. What makes anyone think that AHCCCS even cares??? We've been good at screwing things up over time so go on...do some more damage to those who need your compassion and understanding! The faster you ruin the ideals and principals of a great nation the faster I can be done here and go home to my Master.

I can tell you that some housecleaning needs done and start with those that seek to dissolve programs designed to help. Look at AHCCCS and cut some of those top positions held where the person goes about and finds jobs that needs eliminating. Get rid of the fool that even suggested this! Hey...here's an interesting thought...lets all unite and get our jobs back in the US instead of letting the Chineese rape us. You're all busy cutting jobs and what we need is more US jobs and good old US know how and craftsmanship with quality. Do something FOR the nation fools and not something to destroy the little good we still do and remain human

Well...I had to write. I'm certain that my letter will not be read and you'll all do whatever the hell you want anyway. You arent supposed to do any harm!!! Look what you are doing!!! ARE YOU AMERICAN??? THEN FIGHT FOR THOSE WHO CAN NOT! THIS IS YOUR DUTY!!!

Submitted in Truth

With respect to God above

[redacted]

Recipient of Services since 2002

Letter 8

8-21-2015

To whom it may concern:

In closing the marc center is a big mistake, for the work of the handicaps young and old.

Marc Center has done a wonderful job in my opinion.

Emma Jean West started Marc Center years ago in her home for her son. and I helped her with the handicap kids. they are really a blessing and need alot of attentions.

If it wasn't for marc center where would they go and get help. It is really a sad thing. Sounds like to me somebody wants to take it over.

I Hope we have good news about it soon. Dorothy McWilliams

Letter 9

8-24-15

AHCCCS In regard to CBE

We need to keep the day Programs These people need the work program to feel needed

The regular work will not hire them
The companys say there Ins will not cover them
MY Daugher Has tried to work in the reg. work force, It did not work for her.

She has been at Marc Center for 28 Years

Thank you

Keep the way it is now

[redacted]

Letter 10

August 23, 2015

AHCCCS
% Office of intergovernmental Relations
801 E Jefferson Street, Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, Arizona 85034

RE: Employment Participants:

Marc Community Resources
924 N Country Club Dr., Bldg 3
Mesa, Arizona 85201 - 4108

To Whom it May Concern:

With reference to the Employment precipitation of my son [redacted] and many others. I want to thank you for your contributions of this extra ordinary program. He has developed priceless talents.

Self confidence for survival
Sense of purpose
Pride in production
Genuine joy of going to work
Excellent discipline
Great co-operation and respect to supervisors
Appropriate behavior in public , including restaurants, train rides
Outstanding social skills

Work has been such a positive influence the loss would only be going backward.

These skills will determine the ability to create positive thinking

I realize Arizona, our Country and Maricopa county are in serious trouble. However I never hear about anyone talking about finding the waste.

Why is it so hard to be able to use volunteers, I understand it has to do with insurance covering any possible injuries. Maybe a waiver could be used by qualified, skilled, dependable volunteers

Staffing by DES is done twice a year. It may be possible to change , Annual by DES and one by facility staff, then you have a cross check.

Before making decisions maybe these facilities could be visited by the decision makers. Look at the dedication, training and most of all look at the progress reports of each client.

You have had very bad billing errors in the past couple of years. Some with no amounts, some with notes saying do not pay - this is not a statement, but of course you must already know this. Why do you have the billing done in the state of Missouri when Arizona needs the business? I'm sure you must have a good reason.

I believe [redacted] has the very best care and teaching. It takes a passion and a special heart to train these special need citizens, loosing one of them is a great loss, they can be replaced with a person but how do you replace the heart and passion that makes them so good at what they do.

My great motivation for staying healthy is being an advocate for the special need citizens that were left behind for many many many years.

Surely human lives takes preference over rail trains and freeways we have done without for all these years.

I am asking you for common sense evaluations concerning your decisions.

Kindest Regards,

[redacted]

Mother of [redacted]

Letter 11

August 24, 2015

AHCCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As parents of a special needs daughter we are outraged that AHCCCS is considering changes that would restrict or eliminate Center-Based paid work activities. We feel the Center Based Employment Program at the Marc Center is an essential vocational service for our daughter [redacted].

[redacted] has been in the CBE Program at the Marc Center for the past twenty years and never misses a day of work even when she has out-of-state family visiting. She has a very strong work ethic and enjoys the variety of jobs she tackles each week. We see how happy she is each day when she arrives home and tells us how many boxes she put together, what she has put in them, or papers she has collated, etc. [redacted] loves earning a paycheck like her brothers and sisters and is all smiles when she proudly shows everyone her paycheck whether it be for $7 or $30. April would be heart-broken if she could no longer work as this is a huge part of her life and one that she looks forward to each day.

[redacted] does not need a more restrictive day program. The CBE Program fits our daughter's capabilities and we know she is in a safe environment where she receives daily support. We know [redacted] would not be able to find employment in the community because of her disabilities, however, we would consider vocational options that present no danger to her as our daughter does not recognize danger.

As concerned parents we also ask that long-term care services not be changed. [redacted]'s disabilities will never change and new federal laws should not be allowed to dismiss the needs of disabled people or to alter their daily life.

Our daughter and her friends at the Marc Center love working and take pride in what they do, and we believe the Center Based Employment Program gives them self-worth. Please do not eliminate this very worthwhile and positive work program for the disabled. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Proud Parents of [redacted]

Letter 12

Plese Dont Close the Marc Center

Dear AHccs
Pleas Don't close
the Marc Center we like
working and seeing my friends
and the staff to. I Don't
wont to lose my Respt ~~my~~ Dan
HE a fun guy

[redacted] form [redacted]

Letter 13

Please dont Close The Marc Center
This is the only place were my doughter can
go To feel A Scence of normalcy of A
Job She can only work in A Shelter work
environment if you Close The Center She
will have To Stay home and watch TV every day

Thank you

[redacted]

Letter 14

2-12-15

AHCCS

Please do not change payments to MARC. They do such wonderful work with the clients and have a dedicated staff working very hard every day.

My Step Son, [redacted] has Down Syndrome and loves going to work at MARC

They have tried him in grocery stores, but he cannot handle it, he is not able to work on the outside, and no one would hire him.

He don't know the difference between a 5.00 check, and a 25.00 check. He comes home with a big grin on his face, as proud of that check he would have nothing to do if he could not go to MARC

When he sees something in a store they worked on, he said I helped make that

This is the only chance he has for employment, please don't take it away, so he can continue going to work and feel like he is a productive human being

Thank you for considering my concerns

[redacted]

Letter 15

[redacted]

AHCCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street,
Phoenix, AZ 85034

To whom it might concern,

I was very disappointed when I heard there might be changes to to center-based enployment or work activities, such as the MARC center. My son has attended the MARC center for over 10 years. He has benefited greatly from this program. He has Down Syndrom, is very amiable and gets along with everyone, but stutters so badly that he doesn't talk hardly at all. This makes it impossible for him to work in a place such as Frys or Basha's, but he does great at the self contained workplace.

It fills him with pride to have a job to go to daily and accomplish things there. He feels needed and a part of a good clean working community. Where can he find a better and more safe environment that has staff looking out for his safety, and well being. He is so kind, he has been taken advantage of with his money. There, they are able to monitor and make sure no one cons him out of his spending money.

He feel that he can learn a job and master it well. He is included in the activities and feels he is more normal by bringing home a paycheck and being part of the community. He would absolutely be lost and lonely if he had no place to go during the day, with nothing to accomplish. What a boreing life that would be.

Please help keep these options open for these SPECIAL NEEDS PEOPLE. This is a way thay can be productive helpful members of our society. It gives them a feeling of purpose and pride. Don't take that away from them. It's not easy, being different, or raising someone who is different. This program has been a great benefit in the life of my boy.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Mother of a 34 year old Down Syndrom Son

Letter 16

~~HILTON~~

8/19/15

AHCCS-

I am writing this letter to you because it concerns my Mentally Challanged sons employment. He has been working at the MARC workshop since 1992. He is 48 yrs old & totally enjoys his employment there. He coaldnot & cannot work in the outside community. Please

*[Please Please donot do away with the All Day Program & Employment Program There are too many people like my son who cannot function trying to work outside the workshops. They & he are in dire need of the workshops.]

*Please think think of this population. Money is not an object for my son Since his Dad died his SSI benefits have increased considerable. He loves what he does & loves where he works.

Thank-

[redacted]

[Mom]

Reservations 1-800/HILTONS

Letter 17

8-18-15

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT FUNDING FOR MY SON [redacted]'S EMPLOYMENT THROUGH MARC CENTER MAY BE RESTRICTED OR TAKEN AWAY.

THAT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE INJUSTICE TO BRIAN AND THE HUNDREDS AND MAYBE EVEN THOUSANDS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT CAPABLE OF GOING OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY AND JOINING THE REGULAR WORK FORCE.

[redacted] WILL BE 46 THIS YEAR AND HAS BEEN AT MARC CENTER FOR OVER 20 YEARS. DURING ~~THAT~~ TIME HE'S TRIED SEVERAL TIMES TO WORK OUT IN THE COMMUNITY BUT IT JUST DIDN'T WORK. EACH TIME HE ~~HAS~~ FELT LIKE IT WAS HIS FAULT HE FAILED, WHEN IN FACT HE JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE SKILLS REQUIRED. AT MARC CENTER BRIAN IS ONE OF THEIR BEST WORKERS AND TAKES PRIDE IN THE VARIOUS JOBS HE IS ABLE TO DO. HE IS ALSO VERY

PROUD OF THE FACT THAT BECAUSE HE IS WORKING AND EARNING HIS OWN MONEY HE IS ABLE TO BUY THINGS FOR HIMSELF AND OTHERS. GRANTED HE MAKES LESS THAN HIS NON-DISABLED PEERS, BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT. HE JUST KNOWS THAT HE GOES TO WORK EVERY DAY, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, AND HE EARNS A PAYCHECK.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF [redacted] AND HAVE ALWAYS INSTILLED IN HIM THAT HE HAS TO WORK FOR THINGS HE WANTS. MARC CENTER GIVES HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT EVERY DAY BY PROVIDING CENTER BASED EMPLOYMENT.

IF AHCCCS LIMITS OR ELIMINATES EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS AT MARC AND OTHERS, WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE BRIAN AND THE MANY, MANY OTHERS LIKE HIM?

PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T TAKE AWAY THE ABILITY FOR THESE SPECIAL INDIVIDUALS TO FEEL LIKE CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY, WHICH THEY ARE BY BEING ABLE TO GO TO WORK EVERY DAY. MAYBE IT

WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR YOU TO VISIT SOME OF THE WORKSHOPS AND SEE THESE VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE AT WORK AND HOW HAPPY THEY ARE TO BE THERE.

RESPECTFULLY,

[redacted]

(A VERY CONCERNED PARENT)

Letter 18

From the Desk of:

August 16, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 850347

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that MARC Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. I am outraged to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my step-son's brother in-law, [redacted] who go to MARC Center as part of the day program and participate their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

[redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals.

While the actual money he earns is negligible, it is not about the money. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. He gets excited too when he can see out in a store an item he has packed or assembled. What a great sense of accomplishment for him. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at MARC, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family and certainly helps ease the burden of his care off my step-son and his wife.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues. Feel free to contact me for any additional details you may want.

Best Regards,

[redacted]

Letter 19

From the Desk of:

[redacted]

August 16, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 850347

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that MARC Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. I am outraged to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my daughter-in-law's brother, [redacted] who go to MARC Center as part of the day program and participate their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

[redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals.

While the actual money he earns is negligible, it is not about the money. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. He gets excited too when he can see out in a store an item he has packed or assembled. What a great sense of accomplishment for him. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at MARC, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family and certainly helps ease the burden of his care off my son and his wife.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues. Feel free to contact me for any additional details you may want.

Best Regards,

[redacted]

Letter 20

[redacted]
August 18, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that Marc Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. It is disappointing that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my nephew, [redacted], who go to the Marc Center as part of the day program and participate in their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

My nephew [redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at Marc for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. He does not need a restrictive "day program". He may not even qualify for something like that. Marc allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And Marc offers job coaching and life skills as well, so there is an important long-term effect around the entire program Marc offers disabled individuals.

My nephew has been going to the Marc center and getting out of the house three days a week, which he was not doing prior to joining the Marc center family. And he is so excited that he is earning money. I have spent hundreds of hours over the past year and a half listening to him on the telephone and on Skype as he describes in detail what he did at the Marc Center, how much money he made that day, and some of the things he has learned in his classes. He also has a more positive self-esteem and pride in the work he is doing. He has learned important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at Marc. Marc has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This has given him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at Marc, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family and people within his neighborhood community.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues because of the great benefit it provides for those who are challenged and have difficulty functioning normally in society.

Most sincerely,

[redacted]

Letter 21

[redacted]
August 18, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that MARC Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. It is disappointing that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my nephew, [redacted], who go to the MARC Center as part of the day program and participate in their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

My nephew [redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. He does not need a restrictive "day program". He may not even qualify for something like that. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as well, so there is an important long-term effect around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals.

My nephew has been going to the Marc center and getting out of the house three days a week, which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. And he is so excited that he is earning money. I have spent many hours over the past year and a half listening to him on the telephone and on Skype as he describes in detail what he did at the MARC Center, how much money he made that day, and some of the things he has learned in his classes. He also has a more positive self-esteem and pride in the work he is doing. He has learned important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This has given him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at MARC, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family and people within his neighborhood community.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues because of the great benefit it provides for those who are challenged and have difficulty functioning normally in society.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Letter 22

Dear AHCCS,

We are very upset, at the letter receive in the mail about you possibly closing the MARC CENTER DOWN. Marc is the only place in which (I) [redacted] can work at. I need money coming in and have very little Social Security coming in.

This is the only place I can work at because I have a Disability that prevents me from working in a normal jobs. which will not except my disability **(Seizure Disorder)**

I **need** this job because I need money to pay for Bills Etc. If I was hired by some one other than Marc Center, because of my disability I would be the first to

be fired and not have a job. There again I like I said before I can not work any where else.

If this place closes down I refuse to work at any other place but Marc Center. I love the work I do there and knowing that I am doing some thing else instead of sitting home doing nothing.

I have mastered a lot deep self achievement and accomplishment and learned a lot. If you close this place down all of my self achievements and accomplishments would have been for nothing. It would make me upset just to know I that had some thing just to lose it.

Besides me there are also others that are have physical disabled (WHEEL CHAIR). What do you think these people are going to

do. They CAN NOT WORK,_ at another job but there at Marc Center

The also like this place and the work they do. I think this place is a great place for them to work at They are getting out and doing some thing productive, learning self achievement. They are happy to see some thing they do can be done by them with little or no help by some one else.

Why, close these places down when there are lots of people who need them to stay open for them. I have explained in this letter the best way I can to you not to do this.

It is just not right for you to do this to people like the the ones in wheel chairs and people like me. Please, please, please reconsider

before it is to late for us.

Like I said before it
is not right to do this to people
like us.

Letter 23

Office of Intergovernment Relations

AHCCCS, 8/19/15

I Could hardly believe what I was reading when I received the letter from Marc Community Resources The program has assisted my son for many years now. I've seen my son being so proud of the work he does every week day. How could this be happening? Taking this program from him would be devistating. He is unable to work in the Comunity. His disability is getting worse as he ages. He needs Marc Center for his work program.

Loosing this program would devistate him and all the Clients who depend on this program.

He has always been proud of his job there. I hope and pray that the work programs will Continue uninterupted.

Sincerely Yours

MP

For my Son [redacted]

Letter 24

8-18-15

To AHCCCS & Governor,
I'm advised by the MARC center about you planning to cut All Day Program + Employment Programs "Leaving Only Private Sector Jobs" for all the Mentally & Physically Capped People of Az. Which leaves most of these persons without a job, without a sense of persons, without a sense of accomplishment in their lives!
This is unexceptable!!!
My brother [redacted] can't read or write, he has alot of phobia's, he doesn't understand Stranger Danger. He's been in this MARC Program for 27yrs. now and he wouldn't ever understand not being able to go to work everyday.
Without this program he would be bored to death, very hostile and depressed!!!
I use to be proud of my state - Arizona, But No More! It's run by all you two faced Right Wing Republicans who make all the poor and working poor pay the highest costs in taxes and in every other way possible so the Rich can get Richer while the Poor get Poorer!!!
If you do this I'll never vote for another Republican for anything!!! I'm sick of you heartless bastards!!!

[redacted] U.S.M.C.

Letter 25

From the Desk of: [redacted]

August 16, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 850347

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that MARC Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. I am outraged to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my nephew, [redacted], who go to MARC Center as part of the day program and participate their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

[redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals.

While the actual money he earns is negligible, it is not about the money. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. He gets excited too when he can see out in a store an item he has packed or assembled. What a great sense of accomplishment for him. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at MARC, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family and certainly helps ease the burden of his care off my niece, his sister, and the rest of our family knowing he has this valuable community resource and environment to continue to work at.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues. Feel free to contact me for any additional details you may want.

Best Regards,

[redacted]

Letter 26

From the Desk of:

[redacted]

August 16, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 850347

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that MARC Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. I am outraged to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my sister-in law's brother, [redacted] who go to MARC Center as part of the day program and participate their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

[redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals.

While the actual money he earns is negligible, it is not about the money. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. He gets excited too when he can see out in a store an item he has packed or assembled. What a great sense of accomplishment for him. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at MARC, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family and certainly helps ease the burden of his care off my brother and his wife.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues. Feel free to contact me for any additional details you may want.

Best Regards,

[redacted]

Letter 27

From the Desk of:

[redacted]

August 16, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 850347

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that MARC Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. I am outraged to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my son's brother in-law, [redacted], who go to MARC Center as part of the day program and participate their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

[redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals.

While the actual money he earns is negligible, it is not about the money. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. He gets excited too when he can see out in a store an item he has packed or assembled. What a great sense of accomplishment for him. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at MARC, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family and certainly helps ease the burden of his care off my son and his wife.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues. Feel free to contact me for any additional details you may want.

Best Regards,

[redacted]

Letter 28

From the Desk of:
[redacted]

August 16, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 850347

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that MARC Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. I am outraged to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my nephew, [redacted], who go to MARC Center as part of the day program and participate their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

[redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals.

While the actual money he earns is negligible, it is not about the money. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. He gets excited too when he can see out in a store an item he has packed or assembled. What a great sense of accomplishment for him. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at MARC, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family and certainly helps ease the burden of his care off my niece, his sister, and the rest of our family knowing he has this valuable community resource and environment to continue to work at.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues. Feel free to contact me for any additional details you may want.

Best Regards,

[redacted]

Letter 29

From the Desk of:

[redacted]

August 16, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 850347

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that MARC Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. I am outraged to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my brother-in-law, [redacted], who go to MARC Center as part of the day program and participate their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

[redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals.

While the actual money he earns is negligible, it is not about the money. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at MARC, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family and certainly helps ease the burden of his care off my wife, his sister.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues and I can see my tax dollars are put to use in the way I actually would like to see them spent. Feel free to contact me for any additional details you may want.

Best Regards,

[redacted]

Letter 30

August 16, 2015

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 East Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 850347

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate for not discontinuing the CBE employment option that MARC Center in Mesa offers for disabled individuals. I am outraged to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my brother, [redacted] who go to MARC Center as part of the day program and participate their Center Based Employment program, has the possibility of being eliminated.

My brother [redacted] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. He does not need a restrictive "day program". He may not even qualify for something like that. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals.

While the actual money he earns is negligible, it is not about the money. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial A Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. And how cool is it for him to be able to go into a store and recognize an item that he had a part in assembling or packaging. In addition to all of the above that comes from [redacted]'s being able to work in the CBE program at MARC, the change in [redacted]'s outlook and mental stability is greater too because of his working there. This impacts all other aspects of his interaction with his family.

Please do whatever is in your power to ensure this valuable program continues and I can see my tax dollars are put to use in the way I actually would like to see them spent. Feel free to contact me for any additional details you may want.

Best Regards,

AHCCCS Letter 31 8-19-15

ofc. of Intergovernmental Relations

Enclosed is a letter my son wrote about the MARC center, and what it means to him. As you can see, he is very upset about this.

For most of his adult life he has been connected to work at the MARC center.

He worked for a short time at jobs outside the MARC center; they didn't work out for him. The MARC center is the best work environment for him.

The MARC center gives people with disabilities a chance to work & earn money on their own. If you close this down, there will be a lot of people with no way to earn an income.

I think closing the MARC Center would be a big mistake. These people would have few or no other work choices.

If this is a budget concern, you would do better to look elsewhere to make cuts.

[redacted]

Letter 32

dear office of intergovernmental Relations

Some worker can't Get Jobs
Some can't see and some
Can't hear Some have other
Thing They can't do at all
I Love work at Marc-Center
They are like one Big
Pround Place we have
danes and if Lose marc-
CENTER will Lose
work [illegible] Big Job
That They send to
Big Store and help
Peolpe around Christmas
Marc-CENTER dose
a Lot for big Job

day place doout
And They do Thing
Work Place help
STORE like Bashas
Clean Get cart and
help Bashas-coworker
Some Need help with
Thing Some need help
OTHER Thing is would Be
Sad And mad and not
happy And very mad
Some need MARC-CENTER
if you Take it away
where will all the
worker work That
can't Get JOBS

And I wil miss
it so bad
I Love going there
So will other
you will Take your
life a way!!!
No Van Ride and
people that Ride in
cabs No more
STOP this at ones
hu would like not
much Live on Some
need that Money

Take life away
Like we are Like
Trash PUT US away
Like we are
Nothing To you
I'm proud to
work for marc-
CENTER you
are Make a huge
deal about
Jobs if you will
STOP THIS Now

I was at Marc
CENTER for
LOT of year I work
There I like
Better Then
Real Jobs you
don't Think you
Just Take lot
peolpe Life gone
And your hard work
down and No more if
I was home I'll will
Not be happy
But Side Jobs I had Job
was
it bad

TRY NOT HAVE
A JOB OR NO
WORK AT ALL
YOU ARE MAKE
US FEEL SUPER
MAD THIS HAS
TO STOP FOR
GOOD BUT DO YOU
CARE? I DONT THINK
SO TRY LIVE ON
LESS MONEY SEE
HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE IT

it would be
Mom Grop name
will be mad
AT YOU And
MARC-CENTER
be gone for good
but we don't want
gone Live it alone
Now!!!

I SUPER
LOVE WORK FOR
MARC CENTER
THIS HAPPEN
ONE YEAR SAME
THING AND STOP
THIS RIGHT AWAY
WE NEED MARC
CENTER !!!

Today 08-13-15

This Note
is bad news
for MARC-Center
if you close us
down you are.
good Job down
not up but
Lot of work will
hate this be
gone it would
be!!! super
sad

STOP STOP
This at
ones we hate
This Note
you PUT The
Best Job in
The World away
That NOT Ear
YOU TRY TO Find
Job IN Big World
in AZ

WE NEED TO
STAY NOT
GO NEVER COME
BACK WE NEED
MARC-CENTER
LET STAY FOR
GOOD NOT TAKE
US OUT AND
STOP THIS
NOW!!!

I like
help Bashas/
Marc-Center
go To Marc
Center
go work
is The
Best
Thing

how would
you like
if Take your
Job away
for good
you would not
like at all
We feel that
To we need
Lot of Marc
CENTER

hi my
Name patrick
I Need marc
CENTER
The real job
did not work
for me and
it wont work
for other
MARC-CENTER
WORKER

Don't close
us and keep
it open never
Take it away
No more And
stop Right
Now!!!!!

I feel like
you Dont like
MARC-CENTER
Why Pick on
US you made
LOT Poelpe
Mad Today
We unhappy
with you

Letter 33

August 25, 2015

AHCCCS

c/o Office of Inter Government Relation

801 E Jefferson Street Mail Drop 4200

Phoenix, AZ 85034

To Whom It May Concern:

On January 16, 2014 the centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) released a new ruling on the residential facilities for people with autism and other disabilities. I want to strongly oppose the implementation of this program. It appears that the rural group homes and or Farmstead settings will be impacted the most.

Our son [redacted] is 44 years old and mentally is about three years old. The thought of him having to get on a bus and go to work is totally out of the question. He requires one on one care every day. The other seven ranchers at his facility in Arizona are in the same position. Rusty's Morning Star Ranch is a facility for adults impacted severely with autism. It is one of, if not the best program in the country.

The funding for these programs had already eroded and the state wants the homes to provide more and more without an increase in funding.

The other thing that bothers me is that the government will be the one deciding what program our son will be placed in. They will also have volunteer monitors. There is nothing stated about how qualified these people will be and they certainly will not have the compassion that the parents and guardians do.

People who have autism should have any and all choices they need. Having CMS target rural programs is just not viable for some of the autistic community.

We hope and pray that the people in Washington and Arizona do not make these changes just to save a dollar.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Letter 34

AHCCCS

C/O Office of Inter Government Relations

801 E Jefferson Street Mail Drop 4200

Phoenix, AZ 85034

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns and opposition to changes in AHCCCS policy as it concerns HBCS waivers. If the goal of these changes are to offer more choices then it will fail. We cannot make all changes fit all people.

It appears that the agricultural or homestead programs will be impacted the most. Our son lives on a wonderful ranch in Cornville, AZ. When we initially visited with Jack Armstrong a, co-founder , I was thrilled to learn that the ranchers live and work on the ranch. I thought what a perfect setting for my son to flourish. I must take a moment to share some of my son's wants and needs. He is very low functioning, is diagnosed with autism, mental retardation, OCD & pica. He suffered from spinal meningitis at five months of age and has brain damage as well. It is not safe for him to ride on public transportation. It is not safe for him to have employment in the town community. It is not safe for him to have access to food at all times and certainly not safe for him to prepare his own food. He has food allergies that must be monitored at all times. He has behavior issues that are not received well in the community. Thus making it not safe for him in that environment. In a previous program in a large city he was transported to his day program by a taxi. One morning a vehicle horn honked and the guys were sent out to the taxi unsupervised. After a short time there was a knock on the front door and the taxi driver was inquiring as to where the guys were. After checking with the day program it was discovered that they were not at the workshop. With a massive search they were found down the street in a neighbor's backyard. By God's grace they had not wandered out into the very busy street or onto the busy freeway. It is much safer for him in a rural setting as he does not understand dangerous situations or stranger danger.

In his program in a city setting my son was forced to do all activities that others participated in. One of which was attending the large state fair. I requested that he not be sent and even offered to pick him up and keep him at home with me. Not until after the fact did I learn that he had attended the fair. Not only did he attend he was made to ride the huge ferris wheel. I am so grateful that he did not jump off the ride!! I can only imagine how afraid he was. He cannot verbally express his wants, needs or fears. He is often aggressive when he feels afraid or threatened. His OCD behaviors escalate when he is in a crowded public setting. He feels safe in the rural setting surrounded by the other ranchers, caregivers and familiar neighbors.

Living in the ranch environment, within a rural community, our son receives one to one staffing all day every day. He is allowed to assist with the gardening, feed the chickens, curry the horses, take hikes and

swim in warm weather. Now bear in mind he will take a bite from the vegetable he has just picked. This would not bode well in a super market setting or a restaurant. He is allowed to be himself and not suffer the stress that would accompany this in a city or town setting. We consider it our miracle that he has a home on Rusty's Ranch in Cornville, AZ. He enjoys a great quality of life and is treated with dignity and respect.

He does not accept new people into his life very easily. I am greatly concerned with the mention of volunteer monitors. I would question how qualified these volunteer monitors might be in making assessments that could greatly impact how DDD might evaluate a Provider's compliance. I must say with sadness that my son will never be independent. That said, as his mother, I must do all that I can to see that he receives the best care that he deserves.

I feel that there should be programs for those that are independent. This can be accomplished as it should. Just please, don't deny those that are on the lower end of the spectrum what they deserve. Needless to say, I don't have a PHD in anything other than my son.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Letter 35

9-4-15

DEAR MS. ROUNTREE,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE TO MY LETTER. I HAVE TO SAY I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED.

I WAS VERY GLAD TO HEAR THAT CENTER-BASED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES SHALL REMAIN AVAILABLE TO OUR SON [redacted] AND MANY OTHERS. I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT MARC CENTER AND THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE HAVE MEANT TO OUR FAMILY OVER THE YEARS. THEY ARE AN OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AND OUR COMMUNITY IS VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THEM.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SHARE THIS GOOD NEWS WITH ME.

SINCERELY,

[redacted]

Letter 36

Please fill in the Comment Slip

AHCCCS

ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM

Public Forum: CMS HCBS Rules

Please circle the location/date of forum.

Phoenix (1) - 08/05/15 Phoenix (2) - 08/05/15 Show Low - 08/06/15

Prescott Valley - 08/12/15 Yuma - 08/20/15 Flagstaff - 08/21/15

Tucson - 08/26/15

PLEASE PRINT

Comment Slip

Name: Bev Herman

Organization(if applicable): Guardian, Parent, TCRS

Phone or Email Address: [redacted]

Comments/Questions: [The rules for employment are cruel - when will DD people get to be free - more rules for housing and programs needs more staff when there are countless vacancies now - poor hourly rate and no way for advancement - need adequate pay]

Please use the back of this page for additional comments. →

AHCCCS Office of Administrative Legal Services
AUG 24 2015
RECEIVED

AHCCCS
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Letter 37

8/24/15

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

AHCCCS,

It has been brought to my attention the new federal law is considering changes that will restrict or eliminate CBE (Center Based Employment) throughout the state. This is very concerning to me. I have been associated with this fabulous program for over a year and without it I would not be where I am today. I have participated in the paid activities at MARC Community Resources and I have had the opportunity to work with job developers that have encouraged me to go out in the community workforce.

Working at the Resource Center has given me a chance to improve my work skills and a confidence in knowing that I am a valuable resource to the center. There are many people like myself that need and want a workplace where we feel we are an asset to the community. It gives us pride each day to have this sense of accomplishment.
My self-esteem has been boosted in knowing that I have supervisors around me that encourage me for good. I have tried several times previously to work in the community and have not been successful because of my needs. This is the first time I have ever felt good about myself in the workforce. My experience with MARC Community Resources has included a wide variety of positions such as: Assembly Line Worker, Machine Shop Worker, Receptionist, Janitor, City Bus Cleaner, Cashier, Beverage and Food Service Worker. I have taken pride in coming to work every day and knowing that I can rely on these jobs in my future.

Please reconsider not canceling this very important program.

Sincerely,

An All Day Program and Employment Program Participant

Letter 38

August 25, 2015

AHCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street
Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Dear Sir/Madam:

I was recently informed that you are considering not continuing to have paid Center Based Employment. My son [redacted] is 37 yrs. old and has Autism. He has been attending MARC Center in Mesa. He is doing extremely well there.

I like that he has a safe, clean and secure place to work in. And he is very happy to receive a pay check. It makes him feel that he can accomplish something for doing his work at the Center.

As far as working in the community -- most companies will not hire a person with a disability. Unfortunately. People with Autism and other disabilities need a special environment to work in and be safe. They are not aware of *"stranger danger"* at all. My son once was approached after leaving a bank to cash his check and the guy just put his hand in my son's pocket and took the little bit of money he had. Then gave him back $5.00 so he could at home. I do not want to see this repeated.

I have had to go to numerous hearings and to court to have my son to be able to attend this program and to have him approved both in New York and Arizona. You would think when a person has a disability that the state would be more then willing to help them. Instead of giving them more grief to go through with.

I sincerely hope and pray that you continue with the Center Based Employment for everyone's sake. They have enough challenges to deal with, they certainly don't need any more to have to contend with.

Thank you.

Regards,

[redacted]

Tuesday, August 25, 2015 [redacted]

Letter 39

[redacted]

8-26-15

Center-Based Employment
Services VS Beacon Group:

[It is my prayer, and deep desire that the Beacon Group employees be treated with mercy, and justice.]

The God of justice will be pleased, and all who are involved will be blessed.

Sincerely,
Vernell Foley

Letter 40

Phoenix, 08.23.2015

OUR COMMENT ON:

AHCCCS IS CONSIDERED THE ELIMINATION PAID WORK ACTIVITIES FOR DISABLE PEOPLE for Day Program and Employment Program at AFH

Instead, the lawmakers to make law for people needs, THIS FEDERAL LAW IS TARGETED AGAINST THE PEOPLE!

What is poorer in this law is DIRECT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE DISABLE PERSONS THEY NEED OUR ATTENTION, HELP and CARE AND MENTALLY STABILITY.

Sometimes, I am asking myself: ARE WE DISABLE COMMUNITY WITH OUR COVETOUSLY, THINKING "IN ONE WAY-FOR OURSELFS, ONLY?"

My disable daughter and other in "PERRY Foundation" are related to Day and Employment Programs, got motivation FOR WORK AND LIFE, GIVEN WITH BIG EFFORT MADE FROM STAFF AND TEACHERS.

On the beginning we were skeptical about her attention to do something, but later she SHOWN THAT SHE CAN DO MANY THINGS AND BECAME BETTER CONCENTRATION AND ACHJVEMENT.

Her work in group, contact with teachers and colleagues giving her more fun and support to go ahead and her filling that she doing useful job make her happy!

Our support to her and weekly contact and control with "PERRY FOUNDATION STAFF" encourage her to REACH higher level of work activities. THIS EFFORT IS IMMESURABLE.

In the group she is safety and motivated to do more and more, and is laughing when the job is finished. Also, she is working by hands and IMPROVING HER FINE MOVEMENT, WHAT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR HER AND US.THESE BOTH PROGRAMS IN "PERRY FOUNDATION" ARE GOOD ORGANIZED ACCORDING THE CLIENTS POSSIBILITIES TO DO ACTIVITIES.

OUR CONCERN ABOUT LOOS OF LONG -TERM CARE SERVICES FOR OUR DAUGHTER AND OTHER, TARGETED DISABLE PEOPLE, IS BIG AND WOULD HAVE HUGE NEGATIVE EFFECT AND DISASTER FOR US AS PARENTS, AND ON THEIR LIFE AND MENTALLY STABILITY.

We think that CBE HAS NOT DEEP SENSE AND ENOUGHT EXPERIENCE ABOUT DAYLI WORK OF "PERY FOUNDATION", ABOUT POSITIVE IMPACT ON DISABLE PEOPLE AND STAFFS EFFORT AND ACHIVEMENT.

We, parents are seeing their happiness, when they after two weeks of their work come home, and show CHECK AND SAY:"I EARNED MY MONEY FOR PIZZA!"

I HAVE LAST MY DAUGHTERS CHECK of $18.99, for work of 22 hours, with pay rate $0.95/hour, and dedication TAXES for MED=$ 0.30 and SS=$1.28.

THIS AMOUNT, WHEN SHE GOT, MADE SHE "HAPPY TO THE SKY", BECAUSE HER THINKS THAT HER WORK IS VALUED, AND SHE IS PART OF COMMUNITY!!!

Also, TARGET, WALMART and COSTCO giving 5% of their profit for Community supporting disable people!!!

OUR OPPINION IS THAT AHCCCS NEEDS TO STOP ANY CONSIDERATION WHICH CAN LEAD TO DISTURB WORK AND LIFE OF DISABLE PEOPLE, and to work on their improvement to FIND THEIR PLACE UNDER THE GOD AND SUN!

Thank you!

PARE NTS:

[redacted] **father** [redacted]

Master in Civil Engineering, Professional Civil/Structural Engineer

[redacted] **mother** [redacted]

Professional Civil Engineer

Letter 41

CAE SimuFlite

8/24/15

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the elimination of center-based employment in the future at Marc Community Resource Center on Country Club Drive in Mesa: this would be most unfortunate to disabled people such as myself. After a traumatic brain injury and being diagnosed with PTSD + Bi-Polar Mania, I was no longer able to retain employment elsewhere, enduring much discrimination in the regular jobs. I withdrew, but after a case worker referred me to Marc, it was the beginning of my regaining a sense of self-worth. The staff there has been remarkable, coaching me, treating me with dignity, and I have no fear of discrimination there or being taken advantage of.

I beg you, for the sake of others like me, please continue to fund these programs. It helps bring us back to wholeness; it has helped bring me back to life in the time since I started there 2½ yrs ago. Now I have a future to look forward to.

Please call me if you have any questions.

[redacted]

~~To~~: AHCCCS Letter 42 August 24, 2015

Hello my name is [redacted], I am a mother of a 27 years old his name is "[redacted]". I am writing this letter to let you know my disappointed and frustration to know that you want to removed the Center-based employment program at Marc Center.

[My son is been working in this program for more than three years. And as a Mother of a Special Ed. son, I'm really tranquil that he work in this program, because is a safe and respectful enviroment. Where he learn to work and earn his own money. Since he is in this program his self-esteem when up notoriously, he is happy and ready to work everyday. We had an experience before when he worked in a clothes store, they where making fun of him and the was not enough supervision. In one occasion he left the work place, he was missing for more thean 2 Hours. Those hours where the worse ones in my life.]

That's why I think to removed this wonderful program will be a mistake And as a mother of a Especial Ed. person, I will not feel confortable for my son to work in a high-risk enviroment

→

That's why now my family and I and my son "[redacted]" want to speak up for this program. Make a GOOD DECISION and leave this program open for our community.

Everytime my son gets his paycheck he proudly show it to me, family and friends. When he change his check I can see his face of satisfaction with a big smile because he earn that money and he use it for whatever he wants or need. I feel so proud of him and appreciate all the people that work at Center-based program at Marc Center. The close of this program will be awful for my son and all his co-workers.

Sincerely

[redacted]

Letter 43

8/24/15

AHCCCS
C/O Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, Mail Drop 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

AHCCCS,

I write this letter to AHCCCS as an advocate for so many of Arizona State's physically or mentally challenged citizens. I have heard that a new federal law is considering changes that will restrict or eliminate CBE (Center Based Employment) throughout the state.
Words cannot begin to say how devastating this possibility would be for so many. I have a daughter that has been a participant of this program for just over a year and I cannot adequately explain what it has done for her and her life. Until this program was introduced to her by her AHCCCS provider, she was never able to hold down a job for more than a day or two. Having challenges that the community workforce was not willing to work with her to improve her skills, they quickly let her go. This is such a disservice to a willing and eager individual. Each time this would happen she became more disappointed in herself and her ability to perform. She was more than willing to work and gladly accepted their invitation to work only to be let down from the community. She has participated in the paid activities at MARC Community Resources since June 2014 and has been given many opportunities to excel. It has taught her work skills, social skills, time management, learning to work with others and so much more. This program offered job developers that were assigned to her to help her with the resume' process and interview process. As a parent of an adult child and to know her self-worth has increased a hundredfold because of this great program is more than enlightening. The truth is we need more programs available like this not less programs. Without these opportunities our Arizona Challenged Citizens would only hope for something better and might not ever experience a true workforce accomplishment. We all know that individuals with disabilities are the last to be hired and most likely, if hired, are the first to be let go in an economic change, not to mention being let go because they may not be able to multitask as many others unlike them can.
I plead and ask for AHCCCS to reconsider their position to this very important, sensitive and life changing matter.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Jennifer Richey
A Parent of An All Day Program and Employment Program Participant

Letter 44

Please fill in the Comment Slip

AHCCCS

ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM

Public Forum: CMS HCBS Rules

Please circle the location/date of forum.

Phoenix (1) - 08/05/15 | Phoenix (2) - 08/05/15 | Show Low - 08/06/15

Prescott Valley - 08/12/15 | Yuma - 08/20/15 | Flagstaff - 08/21/15

Tucson - 08/26/15

Comment Slip

PLEASE PRINT

Name: [redacted]

Organization(if applicable): The Cully Legacy Foundation

Phone or Email Address: [redacted]

Comments/Questions:

I understand that the PCP can protect individuals with health & safety issues and help assure that we have a continuum of services available. My daughter is a good artist and at 46 yrs old she has never needed the system. She has Down syndrome and is now regressing and has personality changes so she cannot function in the community any longer.

Please use the back of this page for additional comments. →

AHCCCS

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

In the past, for example, she was able to take the bus across town, and even change buses, to get home from the Mesa Community College where she takes computer classes.

She has behavioral issues of wandering and getting lost. She can no longer take care of herself independently, like her laundry, without prompting, and cannot take care of her household.

We are very grateful that there is a safe and appropriate sheltered work site at Ware Community Resources. We need to keep center based workshops available for those in the community who cannot be safe in community jobs or volunteer placements.

I have many years of experience in Person Centered Life Planning. If I can be of service call me at [redacted] or the Cutty Legacy Foundation at [redacted]

Linda Mudge

Letter 45

To whom it may concern,

I am very upset that you would consider closing the workshop. I like the staff and my co-workers. I like most of the jobs and I get opportunities to learn new skills like answering phones.

I have tried working in the community but it became very stressful and I was not happy. I like the workshop better. I am not as stressed there.

Sincerely

[redacted]

Letter 46

To whom may concern

I would like to write to you on a client's point of view I do go to bashas two times a week when close the CBE program you are closing opportunities for the clients that have that opportunities to work for Bashas and to work In departments like Meat, Produce, deli and bakery so I am asking to NOT close us down and to keep it open for us so we can continue working

Thank you

Sincerely: [redacted]

47

To whom it may concern

We want the work shop to stay open and not close down.

Where do you want us to work If the work shop closes?

I like to work at shop and getting paid.

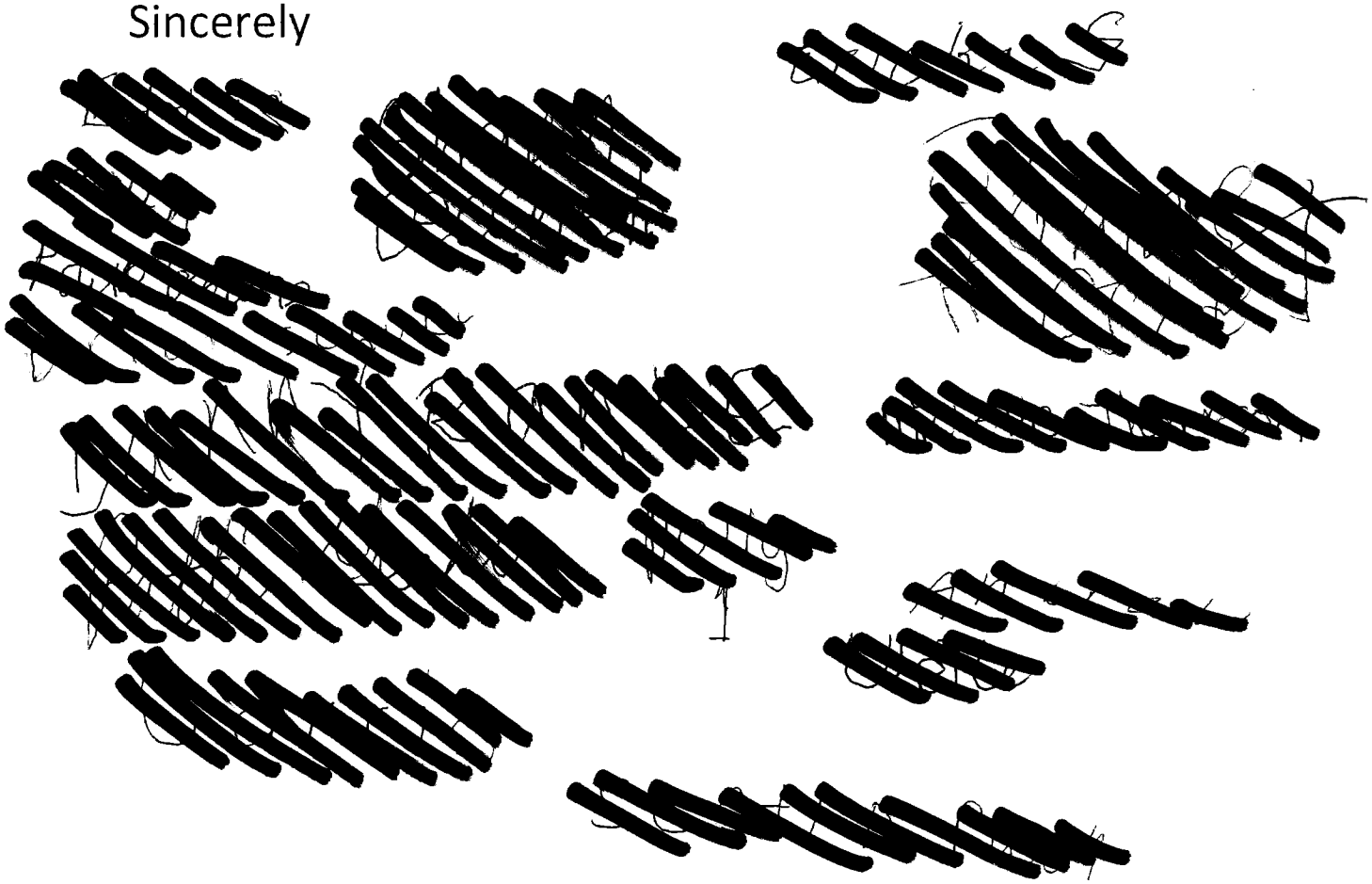
[redacted]

Letter 48

To whom it may concern,

We currently work in a workshop and enjoy our jobs as well as being with our coworkers and staff. We were very upset to hear that our jobs may be taken away from us.We are asking you to not do this. We do not want to sit home all day and some of us can not be left alone in the community due to health issues or our lack of community safety skills and stranger/danger skills. We are unable to write or read,but asked a staff to write our feelings on this matter for us. Thank you for listening to our concerns. We love our work place and don,t want you taking it away.

Sincerely



[redacted]

[redacted]

Letter 49

RE: HCBS Assessment and Transition Plan-Employment Services

To Whom It Concerns:

My name is [redacted], and my son, [redacted], suffered a traumatic brain injury when he was four-years-old. He is now in his forties.

He graduated from high school with a special education diploma. He must use an electric wheelchair. The left side of his body has some spasticity which prevents him from using his left arm and leg in a normal way.

His speech is slower than normal, and he is difficult to understand at times. Though diagnosed with learning disabilities, he is quick to grasp what is required of him at work.

He loves going to work! He's a serious, hard-working person who never stops trying to find new ways to improve his work, regardless of his physical handicap.

He loves getting a pay check! [redacted] attended a three-and-one-half year program in Boulder, Colorado. He was a volunteer for the Boulder Planetarium, sorting slides for upcoming shows. When automation came in, he lost his position there.

Mike has attended four different independent work programs for the disabled. He failed to find a job that fit him and his particular disabilities. Mike tests high enough to not be labeled "mentally disabled," yet the brain injury has limited many of his former abilities.

Now he has found this wonderful group in Prescott, AZ. Mike works with some hard-working, very caring supervisors

at Yavapai Exceptional Industries. It has been fifteen years since Mike first entered the work program He is happier now, and loves the work plus receiving a paycheck.

It boosts his feelings of worthiness and accomplishments for what he does five days a week all year long. He was hired fifteen years ago. It would be devastating to him if he no longer received a pay check for all his hard work.

He expiences pride in his work, and he looks forward to being with his fellow workers & supervisors. The eagerness he exhibits @ five o'clock in the morning each day is heart-warming.

Please help him to keep the choice of continuing to work right where he is. An Arizona Highway Patrol officer (In 1969) pulled out of a side street and hit our car broadside. It changed our lives forever, and it has been very difficult. He has been happy and content for these last fifteen years. Now he fears this may be taken away from him.

Thank you for reading this letter. I can be reached at [redacted] We live here in Prescott Valley, and our address is: [redacted]

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Letter 250

August 18, 2015

Dear sirs;

Re: CBE

As parents of a mentally challenged young adult who benifits greatly from her particpation at MARC Center, we are appalled at the notice that we recieved stating that the facility may be closed.

Our daughter has benifitted greatly from her years there. She has been a client since 9-04-1992.

She has developed social skills, learned independence and terrific working skills. To deprive her of these benifits would greatly impact her ability to function in todays society.

Marla is incapable of functioning in a workplace without direct supervision and her self esteem would suffer greatly without the MARC Center staff.

Our reason for writing is to encourage you to reconsider your plans to discontinue CBE as this would prove disastrous to her well being.

We will be watching for evidence of your findings and seriously hope that your decisions reflect the needs of those folks born with similar inflictions. I pray that you don't have siblings who need the programs that MARC Center so gratiously provides to function on a day to day basis.

Thank you for your consideration,

[redacted]

[redacted] mother of [redacted]