

Polk Center

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Polk Center

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Good Evening everyone fighting for the future of Polk Center. I am sorry that I am not here myself, but my heart and soul is standing with all of you while you stand in protest of what Governor Wolfe has decided to do with our individuals and their homes. It is true that we are fighting for them and their homes first and foremost. They can not stand and fight the government on their own. They need us to stand for them. But this is not the only thing that closing Polk Center will cause. There is going to be a ripple effect that no one will be able to stop. For every action there is a reaction. The closing of Polk Center is going to be devastating for many reasons.

Let's take a moment and see the future and what will happen when the doors finally close.

Individuals:

- 1.) Individuals moved to new homes that makes them unsure and scared.
- 2.) Individuals that will react in ways that you can only imagine.
- 3.) Ripping the safety and security of a person that has lived in Polk all or most of their lives.
- 4.) Individuals that are improving due to the settings and structure of Polk and its programs will be gone.

Employees:

- 1.) Unemployment
- 2.) Loss of work means loss of wages
- 3.) Possible loss of homes, cars, utilities (due to loss of wages)
- 4.) Employees having to relocate because they are offered jobs on the other side of the state.
- 5.) Employees that may leave Civil Service because for them family means more to them then working in Harrisburg.
- 6.) Employees that may be forced to take jobs at minimum wage. Due to the fact there isn't anything else in this area.
- 7.) There will be depression because people are losing their livelihood.

Communities:

- 1.) Loss of small businesses that count on the 700 employees that patron their establishments.
- 2.) Loss of economy in the immediate and surrounding areas.
- 3.) Unemployment goes up and so does the use of welfare which will go hand in hand with any business that maybe in the area that need the employment to be high so they can maintain their way of life and how they take care of their families. Not only do we lose our jobs but so does anyone that has a business with employees.

Anyone that believes that none of things won't happen or that its not going to be this bad. You are not opening your eyes to what can and does happen in many areas when things like this happen.

Polk does not sit in the middle of a big city where jobs are endless. No, Polk is in rural America, small town communities. Where anything that happens effects everyone.

I know the most important thing at Polk is its clients. Closing Polk is not going to stop people with disabilities from being born, or growing up, in need of the extra help that we give these individuals and their families. Individuals are going to be a part of our lives forever and closing these facilities is not going to make things better.

Don't think for one minute that Politicians know what it is like living, working in these communities. Don't think for one minute that it matters to them that we are losing our income. They live on our tax dollars and believe me they live better than all of us. They are not going to suffer. Our individuals and clients will, let alone how this is going to hit us.

I could go on and on about what this is going to do.

So, employees that work in group homes are saying they need to close Polk. What makes them think this? Is it the safety and welfare of the individuals that live in the state homes or is it the almighty dollar? They have horror stories about things they say is happening in state facilities. There are stories that we could all bring to the table about group homes also. But why do we want to do that? Don't make us look like them. Stand strong for our individuals. Stand strong for your co-workers and your communities. Let's show everyone how united we are and how important our individuals are. If we can succeed in keeping Polk open, this could and will open the doors for the possibility for other facilities to believe that it could happen for them too.

WE ARE IMPORTANT!! WE ARE THE HEROES!! WIN OR LOSE, HARRISBURG WILL HEAR OUR ROUR. WE AREN'T GOING DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT! HARRISBURG WILL SEE THE RED FOR

Polk Center

MILES AND WE WILL MAKE THEM SHAKE IN THEIR SHOES! LOVE FOR OUR INDIVIDUALS IS
BACKING US AND LOVE CONQUERS ALL!!!!!!!

WE ARE COMING HARRISBURG!

Thank you,

Debbie Kimmel