

Dear Governor Wolf,


My name is Dennis Zellefrow. My sister, Darlene, has made Polk Center her home for the past fifty two years. Darlene is blind, paralyzed on the left side of her body, and has the mentality of a two-year-old. Darlene does not walk anymore and she is confined to a wheelchair. She says a few words at random, but she cannot carry on a conversation. She does not feed herself, and cannot use the restroom, bathe, or dress herself independently.

Taking her away from her home at Polk would be a terrible mistake. She needs round-the-clock care, and the staff at Polk are well trained, and take care of all of her needs. She would not receive anywhere near that level of care at a group home. She not only gets the best care at Polk Center, but she gets love from everyone that takes care of her. Darlene is a happy person at Polk Center.

Polk Center offers many activities that she can participate in. She goes swimming once a week at the pool. She goes out to eat. She has the opportunity to go to plays, movies, malls, baseball games, and more. At the center, they have movie nights, bingo nights, parties, and art classes. They often bring in singers and petting zoos.

Darlene loves music. She has a stereo player that she uses to listen to CDs and the radio. She also enjoys listening to the television. Darlene lives in a small world with all of her disabilities, but Polk Center is the biggest part of her world. Please, Governor Wolf, do not take Darlene's world away from her. Please reconsider your position on closing Polk Center. Please keep Polk Center open for her, and the other residents.

Thank you,



Dennis Zellefrow