

From: Judy Waychoff <ljwaychoff@zoominternet.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 2:13 PM

To: Erin Raub <Eraub@pahousegop.com>

Subject: Polk/White Haven closures

This email is in reference to the possible closing of Polk Center. I have a sister who has been at Polk for 49+ years. Polk is her home. Polk is her safe haven. How would you feel if somebody told you you'd have to move after 49 years of residing in a safe & secure atmosphere? It would be hard enough on someone with no physical disabilities let alone someone who has been disabled since birth & has to have help with normal life functions on a 24/7 basis. She has already had to have her depression medications increased. Her body trembles when she starts thinking about being put out of her home. She will tell you point blank that she isn't leaving!!

My sister will never be able to be on her own due to her disabilities. My parents were advised about this back in 1969-70 by Titusville School district. The school did all they could do for her. With some help from a couple administrators they were successful in contacting R Bud Dwyer who was the state representative at the time. He was instrumental in helping get her placed at Polk.

She has adjusted very well over the years. There are so many activities & outings for the "kids" at Polk. My sister is able to work at the center & do various jobs on & off grounds. She was employed at the local Dairy Queen for 25 years. There is always someone from Polk to transport her to & from her workplace. The care that she receives from her "Polk family" is amazing & very much appreciated by her family.

To think of her being placed in another facility over 2 1/2 hours from Polk is unconscionable. Families of these "kids" are no longer young people & it would be a real hardship on some of them to travel the

distance to visit their family member. This doesn't factor in the weather conditions in our area of the state.

The way DHS & Gov Wolf went about announcing the closure of Polk & White Haven was totally WRONG! We are so appreciative for all the efforts being made by our local politicians & the employees at Polk. Our area of the state has really come together to support keeping Polk Center open. Please hear the voices of the citizens expressing their concerns. This decision will not only affect the workers & residents of the center but it's a huge factor in the economy of our area.

PLEASE reconsider your decision on this matter. We're praying you'll make the right decision for the residents & their families. There are people's lives depending on you...literally.

Thank you,

Judith E Waychoff

POA/Rep Payee/Guardian for Margaret Ann Collins