

Pamela Huss

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Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 8:26 PM
To: Pamela Huss
Subject: Contact submitted from website - Gene DiGirolamo

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User Message: I am writing to you to express my great concern for the state closures of Polk Center and White Haven. I feel that this process has been untransparent by government, with disregard for procedures, with a blatant disregard for parents, family members, individuals, and staff at the centers. I feel that a true investigation not only of the closures themselves, the choice of closures, the disregard of parents, individuals, stakeholders, workers, and effects of the communities at large have not been fully thought through in the decision making process, or the lack thereof. I also feel that the community is not currently ready for the great needs of the individuals that are being met currently at the state centers. As a mother of an autistic child with ID and MH, I also find it infuriating how advocacy groups like ARC AND TEMPLE attack a group of people who they refuse to represent. These advocacy groups hold a stake in the transfer of these individuals into the community. They tell parents where they should put their children and when parents and individuals express the wants and desire to stay where they have lived for 50+ years they exclaim excitement for their homes being taken away. In the process separating friends and families by distances that