



# SECURE the Developmental Centers!

**Support an expanded role for MR/DD  
state-operated services!!**

Ask your State  
Senator to  
support the  
MR/DD state-  
operated  
community  
services pilot!

A soon-to-be-introduced budget amendment would maintain services in the DCs and expand residential services to community settings **using ODMR/DD state bargaining unit employees**. A pilot program is being proposed in the state budget for the Gallipolis Developmental Center catchment area (14 counties) that would involve no more than 10 waiver beds staffed by state employees. This is the first time there has been an opportunity to expand the services the DCs provide! The pilot will not create an either/or situation for people, but will help improve our chances of keeping all 10 DCs and all 1600 beds. This will be the **ONLY** residential program that insures **REAL CHOICE** for people with significant disabilities!!

Ask your State  
Senator to support  
the MR/DD pilot.  
Tell them that...

- ✓ Only state-operated community residential services give individuals with high needs real choice of residential setting. Private providers can refuse to serve those who are high cost.
- ✓ Only state employees can offer the quality and consistency needed to serve individuals with intensive needs. State employees have the lowest turnover of any employee group in the MR/DD system.
- ✓ The pilot will not cost additional money. Funding is already allocated in the state budget under the Martin Settlement line item for the waivers.
- ✓ A successful community program is already being run in the Ohio Department of Mental Health where 500 state employees work with individuals in the community who have severe mental illness.
- ✓ More than 40 percent of states have maintained a role in the provision of state-operated community services. It's time for Ohio to step up to the plate.
- ✓ The pilot program will not mean the elimination of any DC beds. The Martin Settlement makes it clear that beds do not have to close if individuals choose to move.