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Comment regarding SB627 Work Group "Options":

None of the proposed options will allow the Commonwealth to fulfill the mandates put forth in the settlement agreement. The Commonwealth cannot continue to support a declining number of individuals in any combination of training centers as suggested in any of the options AND address the many requirements of the settlement agreement, chief among them, the provision of additional waiver slots to address the almost 10,000 people on the waiting lists. **It is a fiscal impossibility.**

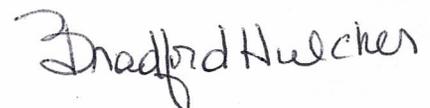
The factors agreed upon over several sessions by the work group are not required or mandated in training centers, nor can they be fulfilled in training centers. These same factors are a requirement for community options under the Settlement Agreement.

According to the Settlement Agreement, respite and crisis services must be provided in community based settings. Options suggesting otherwise, such as training centers providing such services, would put the Commonwealth out of compliance with the Agreement.

Under federal law, there is no mandate or right to training centers. Nearly 10,000 Virginians on waiver waiting lists, with equivalent needs to the rapidly declining number in training centers, have been offered that placement and rejected it in favor of community supports.

I believe the 2014 UCP data ranking Virginia now in 49th place in outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities in the community (down from 47th!) speaks volumes about the direction that the Commonwealth needs to move in regard to the options presented by the work group.

As a member of the SB 627 Work Group, I am unable to support any of the options presented in the table, which disregard the needs of nearly 10,000 Virginians who are waiting for community supports.



Bradford Hulcher