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Sent: Friday, August 29, 2014 8:59 AM

To: Ferguson, Debra (DBHDS); Cochran, Connie (DBHDS)

Subject: Home in Arlington for NVTC residents

Our son, David Tishman, lives at NVTC. We are very excited about the plans for 2 group homes in Arlington which you have helped facilitate. All Arlington NVTC residents will find homes.

However, we are very concerned about the efforts of some at NVTC to block funds and undermine community placement. The majority of NVTC residents WANT community placement. There are hundreds of equally disabled Virginians on the waiting list for services. The NVTC Parents group tries to block community funding to give credence to their argument that there is a lack of community resources. This is a horrible tactic. I am contacting legislators, but, although I may represent far more disabled, but they have a powerful lobby.

The NVTC Parents will not compromise and are willing to see no services in the community developed in order to maintain a program that closed to new admissions decades ago. My son was one of the last emergency placements at NVTC. We had pleaded for help for a decade before his medical condition deteriorated to the point he was in crisis. Even though he is housed at NVTC, he was denied a day program there (his day program is in Arlington). Therefore, we know what it is like to be denied services and to have some services. I cannot condone NVTC parents who are willing to both see disabled go without help and to try to block NVTC residents from leaving the training center in order to preserve all services for their own.

Thank you, David and Nancy Tishman