



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Office of the Director

John R. Kasich, Governor
John L. Martin, Director

February 10, 2015

Clifford A. Rosenberger, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Speaker Rosenberger,

I write to inform you that the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is planning the closure of Montgomery Developmental Center and Youngstown Developmental Center. On February 20, the Department will make an official public announcement and begin formal operations to close the above mentioned centers by June 30, 2017.

Ohio's eight other state-operated Developmental Centers will remain open and continue to provide quality care to its residents, as well as short-term stabilization services to their region. This decision was not easy, and was made only after the most careful considerations regarding the safety, health, and well-being of the residents we serve.

As you may be aware, in recent years, the number of residents living at our state-operated Developmental Centers has reduced substantially. At the beginning of my tenure, there were approximately 1,600 residents living at our ten centers; today, that number is approximately 900, representing a decline of more than 40 percent. Because of this drop in census, it is no longer efficient to continue operating ten Developmental Centers.

I look forward to discussing the Department's plans in greater detail with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,



John L. Martin, Director
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

JLM/zrh

Cc: Senate President Keith Faber, House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn, Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni, LSC Director Mark Flanders