

Attn: Susan Stahl

July 26, 2010

To whom it may concern:

My name is Marie Webster and I have used the consumer directed services of the Center for Disability Rights for the past 10 years. Without these services, I would have been confined to a nursing home and my quality of life would have been greatly diminished as compared to what I am able to experience today. I have 24 x 7 care available to me and I am responsible for filling my own personal care needs. I have the ability to choose who will work for me in my home and flexibility to set the schedules that work for me. My attendants are helpful and very dependable and I am willing to put my well being in their hands.

I have never felt there is any abuse or negligence on the part of CDR. They have always been supportive and helpful to me and provide the program that allows me to live my life as normal. Being confined to a wheelchair limits many opportunities for me however, CDR has allowed me to do most of the things I would be able to do if I did not have this debilitating disease. Looking after ones health needs is a lot of responsibility and some people may not be able to do this, however the program has saved my life by allowing me to continue to live with dignity!

I find it hard to believe that a program that provides such wonderful things to people with disabilities would be discontinued. Nursing homes DO NOT provide anything even close to the care I have in the CDR program and I know this because I would still be in a nursing home if it wasn't for the advocacy of CDR ten years ago. There aren't exactly people lining up outside my door to fight for my rights as a human being in this world – CDR was there for me and has continued to be there for the past ten years.

Please reconsider shutting down this program – it could take away the dignified existence and happiness of so many people.

Sincerely,

*Marie Webster by Lynn Romagnolo, attorney in fact*

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