



**STATE OF ARKANSAS
BUREAU OF
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH**

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**REPORT OF
THE HOSPITAL & MEDICAID STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

January 17, 2014

Dear Co-Chairs:

The Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council met January 8, 2014. The meeting discussed the needs of Arkansas's five human development centers and concerns about their future funding.

The parents of several clients in the centers spoke to the subcommittee about the importance of these centers, and the excellent care their sons and daughters are receiving. The parents also noted the need for more funding for maintenance and repairs at the centers, and their concern about new federal programs and mandates designed to push patients to community settings.

Mr. Tom Masseau, Executive Director of the Disability Rights Center of Arkansas, stated in this meeting that the human development centers in Arkansas have no positive long-term value in the treatment of the disabled. Sen. Rapert objected to the Disability Rights Center being a part of the Developmental Disability Services Task Force, which is developing a long-range plan for the human development centers. His objection centered on the bias nature of the testimony of the executive director of the Disability Rights Center.

The subcommittee members asked many questions of John Selig, Director of the Department of Human Services, Charlie Green, Ph.D., Director of the Division of Developmental Disability Services, and the parents who were in attendance.

The chairs of the subcommittee noted the need for more maintenance funding of the facilities, and will search for more funding for the centers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Jason Rapert

Representative Andy Davis

JR:AD:PP:jw