

Waterman, Robert - WHD

From: Gracie Ibarra <gpibarra@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 5:29 PM
To: WHDPRAComments
Subject: Control Number 1235-0001

GRACIELA IBARRA
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am the mother of an "intellectually disabled" 43 year old daughter. My daughter has been working in what they call a "sheltered workshop", Border TM Industries, Inc. dba Exceed Resources, since her graduation from high school in 1994. Her pay relates to her productivity. My daughter is a quadriplegic in a wheelchair, both mentally and physically impaired, unable to speak clearly, however, able to make herself understood most of the time.

I would like to give you my opinion and I am reasonably sure that every parent of every individual in that workshop shares the same feeling.

I want you to know that whatever any individual says about people being treated unfairly is completely incorrect in our workshop. My daughter lives to go to work. The wage is not of any value to me or her. The fact that she can say she goes to work and feels that she serves a purpose in life and feels a sense of independence means everything to both her father and me. These individuals work well together, look out for each other and thanks to Exceed Resources, they provide vital support for the disabled here in El Paso, Texas. They are treated with respect and given every opportunity to excel.

There are many different levels of disability and some more severe than others. The high functioning individuals can possibly be able to work in competitive environment but I bet very few and far between. The few I have seen do not manage to keep their job very long. If you decide to do away with this law you are leaving a lot of disabled people all over the country with absolutely nothing to do. You are taking away their life, their social interaction and their feeling of self-worth. If you do away with our workshops because they are unable to pay a minimum wages, you are taking away the most important part of the lives of the disabled because there are no other options for them.

I do have one question. Are you meaning to change this law for federal contractors only? Exceed Resources is subsidized by local and state contracts. We have some disabled employees that work in those contracts that are paid minimum wage or better. We have no federal contracts. I would hope that you will reply to my comment.

Graciela Ibarra
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