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| Main Street Industries and Training Center, Inc. |
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2/8/2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the Director of the Day Services Program- Main Street Industries and Training Center- that serves the individuals living at Monarch Heights in Big Stone County. I feel compelled to take the time to acknowledge the excellent program and care that Monarch Heights provides to the individuals living in this home. Monarch Heights provides a person centered approach to each and every individual they serve. The home is warm and inviting as well as full of love and laughter. Monarch Heights has well trained, long term staff members dedicated to their mission. Not only is an increase in the per-diam rate justified, but it is desperately needed.

Big Stone County is a small, rural county which is experiencing a critical staffing shortage in the disability field. Without additional funding, it is only imminent that Monarch Heights will have no choice but to close in the near future. This would severely and negatively impact the lives of the 11 individuals who live at Monarch Heights as well as their families. Due to the size of our county, lack of providers, and the staffing shortage, the people who call Monarch Heights “home” would not just have to move across town, but out of the county and local area, further away from family and the community that has embraced them for years.

Monarch Heights closing would also substantially and negatively impact us at Main Street Industries. The sudden removal of 11 persons served would be devastating for our program as well. Again, we are a small, rural county and Main Street Industries currently only serves 27 individuals (including those 11 individuals who live at Monarch Heights). Refusing to increase the funding of Monarch Heights could potentially harm disability services in the entire county. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Terri Skoog-Anderson
Main Street Industries