

Members of the SF2934 HHS Omnibus Conference Committee: Chair John Hoffman, Sen. Jim Abeler, Sen. Omar Fateh, Chair Mohamud Noor, Rep. Dave Baker, Rep. Peter Fischer

Dear Committee Members:

My son, Joe, works at the East Range Day Achievement Center in Eveleth, MN. He makes birdhouses and braided rugs that are sold in the ERDAC Gift Shop. His birdhouses are beautiful. This one took him the better part of eight days to finish. He did a great job!

He is not oppressed.

He is not depressed.

At ERDAC he only meets with success. His transportation is provided with his job. He has a social network of friends. He has staff who understand how to help Joe be a successful employee. He works five days a week.

Please, please, please adopt the Senate language to the conference bill, ensuring that center based 14(c) special wage employment continues to be an option for informed choice employment.

Joe has chosen to work in a setting that is respectful of his disability and meets his needs as an employee. He should be able to decide where he works, just like you and I do.

Joes makes birdhouses, one at a time. He is an artisan. Please let him continue doing the work he enjoys.

Thank you.

Jeanne Prittinen

Eveleth, MN