

The Honorable State Representative Patricia Harless  
10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 620  
Houston, TX 77024

Dear Mrs. Harless:

My name is Linda Sue Hulme, and my family and I live in your district. We have a 26-year-old autistic son named Jonathan who attends a wonderful day habilitation program at Reach Unlimited's Learning Activity Center located in Cypress, Texas. He absolutely loves it there—and that's such a refreshing change. All the years he was in public school, he awakened every morning saying, "School bus **NOT** coming today!!" He dreaded going to school, even though his teachers worked hard on his behalf. A typical morning's conversation today always includes, "Mama taking me to Reach Unlimited today?!"

Let me explain to you what it means to our family to have a place like Reach provide quality, meaningful programming for our child. Before Jonathan graduated from high school at age 22 in 2004, I had done a great deal of research looking for a place that would stimulate him and help him to maintain the skills and academics he had achieved in his public school years. I was alarmed to find that there was no place in the Houston area that met my criteria unless I had \$800 a month to pay for him to attend Brookwood (a special private school and residential facility) in the Brookshire area, over 40 miles away from my home, one way. When a friend told me that Reach was opening a Learning Activity Center in January of 2005, I investigated their plans with great interest. I found a school that had plans to teach academics and life skills, as well as computer, art, music, physical fitness and community service. Each client is treated with love and respect, and the clients' needs drive the program.

The purpose of my letter is to invite you to visit our school and see for yourself how the State of Texas' money is being spent. I am enclosing a business card that lists the dates of our Reach Out Tours. I will call you in the next few weeks to see what date best fits your schedule. If needed, we can schedule a tour at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Hulme

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