

**Department of Education (DOE) Request for Public Comment: Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda E.O. 13777**

**Comments on Regulatory Reform from Jill R. Barker, Ann Arbor, Michigan,:**

With all the emphasis on children with disabilities being served in regular classrooms, usually referred to as "Inclusion", there needs to be clarification ***that IDEA and its regulations assure all children with disabilities appropriate educational services and placements.***

I have two adult sons, 32 and 41 years old, who have profound intellectual and developmental disabilities. They both attended High Point School in Ann Arbor, a school that specialized in students with the most severe and complex disabilities in Washtenaw County. Regular classrooms were in no way appropriate for them, even with special supports and accommodations. At High Point, they experienced the best care and educational opportunities available in a loving and supportive community. I have no regrets, but I know the pressure has been on school systems for many years to eliminate schools like High Point in the name of an erroneous and misplaced desire for all students to be "included".

The following is an article I wrote for **The DD News Blog** in celebration of my son Danny's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is just as relevant today as it was a year ago.