

## **Proposed Closure of SDC**

The residents Sonoma Developmental Center are an extremely vulnerable group of people who would not survive outside of SDC. Any person who thinks it is a good idea to close SDC should spend 24 hours amongst the residents and highly specialized caregivers to learn about the population of SDC and the care given at that facility.

SDC residents have profound disabilities, conditions that many people have never even heard of, much less understood, and the services provided to these residents are not replicated in the outside community. Testimony by residents' families describe people who are unable to move their bodies, to speak, to hear, to see, people who eat things compulsively (batteries, other non-food items)and people who wander away. At SDC these persons have a life in which they are lovingly cared for and can experience security and happiness in a beautiful setting.

To move this population into a "Skilled" Nursing Facility or group home (where untrained persons would be their caregivers) would condemn that population to death, and such a move is unconscionable, and tantamount to murder.