

*Jack Mabley*  
*Developmental Center*

Testimony and  
Records of Appearance  
as of 10/17/2011

# Proponents



# Advancing the human and civil rights of people with disabilities

SELF-ADVOCACY ASSISTANCE ★ LEGAL SERVICES ★ DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUCATION ★ PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY ★ ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

**Testimony by Karen I. Ward, Equip for Equality  
Before the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
Proposed Closure of the Jack Mabley Developmental Center  
Dixon, Illinois  
October 17, 2011**

Equip for Equality, the independent, not-for-profit organization designated by the Governor in 1985 to administer the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system for people with disabilities in Illinois, appreciates the opportunity to testify before the Commission in support of the proposed closure of Jack Mabley Developmental Center (Mabley DC). Equip for Equality's mission is to advance the civil and human rights of people with disabilities, which is accomplished through self-advocacy training and technical assistance, legal services, public policy initiatives, and investigations of abuse and neglect in all settings that serve people with disabilities.

Equip for Equality fully supports the closure of state institutions such as Mabley DC in order to allow people with disabilities to live and thrive in the community. Although the impetus for the proposed closure is budgetary, we believe that the current fiscal crisis presents an opportunity to do the right thing. For years the state has spent too much money to deliver too little to its citizens with developmental disabilities. We are actively working with the governor and state agencies in order to develop a comprehensive, well-thought out plan for transition of the individuals living at Mabley DC to appropriate settings equipped to meet their needs. With appropriate supports and services, including services to address sensory needs and ensure communication access, all individuals with disabilities, including those with the most significant disabilities, can live in the community.

To be done safely and effectively, the closure of state operated institutions and the transition of individuals to the community must be carefully designed and implemented. We know this can be done and done well. Fourteen states, including Michigan, have closed all of their state-operated institutions for people with developmental disabilities and are successfully serving those individuals in the community.

The current fiscal crisis makes clear that Illinois cannot afford the high cost of continuing to do the wrong thing. Serving individuals with developmental disabilities in community settings has been proven to be more cost effective than providing services in an institution. On average it is three times more expensive to serve an individual in a state-operated developmental center as it is to serve an individual in a Community Integrated Living Arrangement, or CILA.

Perpetuating this practice is not only fiscally unsound; it is contrary to the state's expressed commitment to rebalance our long term care system. Closure of Mabley DC will give many of its residents the opportunity to live safer, healthier and fuller lives in the community. The closure of Mabley DC will also allow Illinois to move one step closer to fulfilling the integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act to provide services in the most integrated setting possible to meet an individual's needs and comply with the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision that

*THE INDEPENDENT, FEDERALLY MANDATED PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS*

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unnecessary segregation and institutionalization of individuals with disabilities constitutes discrimination under the ADA. The legal consensus that people have a fundamental right to live in the most integrated environment that meets their needs is consistent with data showing that individuals with developmental disabilities are successful in community settings. It is also consistent with the consent decree in the *Ligas v. Hamos* case in which the state has fully embraced the concept of services in the community for those currently residing in ICFDDs.

The issue before this body--whether to concur with the proposed closure of Mabley DC-- must be evaluated by focusing first on the needs and desires of the individuals with developmental disabilities residing there; the impact on jobs or local economies cannot be the primary factors driving this decision. Studies on outcomes of deinstitutionalization of people with developmental disabilities have concluded that most people who have moved from institutions into community environments have made significant gains in adaptive behaviors and have decreased more challenging behaviors. Longitudinal studies based upon parent surveys in states that have closed institutions, such as Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pennsylvania, also substantiate that a large percentage of parents who were initially opposed to closure became satisfied with community living and believed their family members to be happier in the community.

Equip for Equality recognizes that transitioning individuals out of Mabley DC and into the community presents challenges, especially given the time frame proposed. However, we believe that it can be done successfully if the transition plan includes the following strategic measures:

**First**, there must be enhanced on-site monitoring during the closure process to ensure the safety of individuals residing in the facility.

**Second**, there must be independent oversight of the transition planning and implementation to ensure that the full array of options is available and that an individual's choice is respected and informed decisions can be made.

**Third**, there must be an extensive effort to educate people with disabilities and their guardians and families regarding the options for community living.

**Fourth**, there must be adequate resources available for follow-up and ongoing support services to ensure success in the community.

**Finally**, and certainly not least, the transition process must be adequately funded to ensure both a successful transition and continued success in the community, and, as required by the Community Services Act, the savings realized as a result of the closure of Mabley DC must be reinvested in the community to provide ongoing services and supports.

Equip for Equality is currently working with the state and other organizations to plan for a successful transition. We will continue to work with the state to ensure that individuals currently residing at Mabley DC are provided with high quality choices that can meet each person's unique preferences and needs so they can enjoy a stable, safe and fulfilling life in the most integrated setting.

Thank you very much.

**Statement to  
The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
Closure of Mabley Developmental Center  
Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
By Barbara M. Pritchard  
On Behalf of the Community for All Coalition**

Good evening Commissions members.

I'm appearing before you as the co-founder of the Community for All Coalition with my late husband, Lester. I am also a member of the State-wide Independent Living Council and the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The Illinois economy is in crisis. The state's revenues are plummeting and the state currently owes billions of dollars in unpaid bills for services rendered many months ago.

Clearly our state needs to operate its services as efficiently as possible. Only programs that benefit the greatest number of people in the best ways at the lowest possible per capita cost deserve to be funded. Those programs that do not provide high quality services in an efficient manner should be redesigned.

Currently, it is estimated that the state of Illinois is spending \$181,700 per person per year in State Operated Developmental Centers. With this kind of money, surely the state can provide better alternatives than those at Mabley Developmental Center. And it should do so. The funds that are currently being spent on Mabley could be more effectively used to enable these individuals to live in the community of their choice with supports which are designed to meet their individual needs, wants and desires.

Fourteen (14) other states have closed all of their State Operated Developmental Centers. Michigan, for example, closed its last institution about a year ago. Now it serves many more people in the community at a much lower cost than Illinois currently does. I refer to Michigan because it is a state with similar economic woes and it is of a similar size and makeup to Illinois. Additionally, it is also a heavily unionized state as is our state. Illinois ranks 51st compared to other states, including Washington D.C., in terms of the number of people supported in community settings rather than institutions. On average, quality community-based living can be provided for less than half of the cost of institutionalization.

Some who oppose the closure of this institution may be afraid of the future. This is a normal response. Other families who have transitioned their family members to the community with individualized supports have found that their family members thrive in their new surroundings. This can be seen in the article

"Mother, Daughter Find New Life After Howe" published earlier this year in the Southtown Star.

We can use Illinois' current economic situation to do the right thing and assist families and individuals with a respectful, careful, and considerate transition into the community. There must be the individualized supports in place for each person to live a fulfilling and happy life.

We urge that the Commission members recommend the closure of Mabley Developmental Center.

Oral

## IT IS NOT ABOUT MABLEY

Good evening. My name is Matt Toohey and I am the Executive Director of Access Services of Northern Illinois which is the independent service coordination agency for persons with intellectual disabilities in NW Illinois. Our agency has assisted in the closure of the developmental disability units that were once at Singer Mental Health Center and assisted in moving individuals from the Mabley Developmental Center to smaller community settings.

It is not about Mabley Developmental Center. The uproar about the announced closure of state facilities is about well-paying jobs and the impact of a closure on those communities. It is about maintaining a state run institutional system that outlived its effectiveness years ago. It is about the continued guarantee that a relatively few individuals are entitled to services that cost over twice what similar individuals have in community settings. It is about the continued myth that people with disabilities, especially those with intellectual disabilities, are our most vulnerable citizens and need to be protected.

If the Governor had announced that Fox Developmental Center in Dwight would be closed the same catch phrases or predictions of doom would be uttered by that community and the employees affected by such an action.

All people are vulnerable at some time. Are we to “protect” all from possible harm and risk?

When I hear that only state institutions can provide for people with significant challenges in a safe setting I cringe when I recall the people who died at Howe Developmental Center because of an abusive and neglectful environment staffed by well-paid state employees.

When I hear that only Mabley Center can serve individuals who have visual and/or hearing impairments I wonder why it is not mentioned that Kreider Services also successfully serves such individuals.

There are numerous people who have left state institutions and are successfully living and participating in a community at far less cost than those who remain in

those institutions. There are thousands of people successfully living in community settings who never lived in an institution.

Why have 14 other states successfully closed all or many of their institutions while a minority or people in Illinois claim that such attempts here have resulted in nightmare after nightmare? Could it be that those states valued people by adequately funding community services? Could it be that there was the political will to do right by people by adequately supporting them in the community instead of housing them out of the public eye?

What it is about is treating people as we would want to be treated. The only places where people are housed or live with more than 10 people in one building are state or private institutions, nursing homes, hospitals, prisons or jail, college dorms, or military housing for the enlisted. With the exception of prisons, nursing homes and state or private institutions such housing is meant to be temporary not one's home.

Many of the approximately 2,100 people in state institutions in Illinois have family members who believe that that institution should be their home. They believe that it is their entitlement.

The conversation that should be had is when will we support people with intellectual disabilities in natural settings with the individualized supports they need to succeed? When will the conversation not be about a particular facility but about valuing people with intellectual disabilities as members of our communities?

When we end the conversation about the place and start the conversation about people and their value to our communities only then can we end the discordant uproar of "institution good"  
, "community bad".

I urge the Governor, the Department of Human Services and the General Assembly to focus on people and what is needed to support them rather than cost savings, job loss, and guarantees of life long placement. Had this been done ten years ago our precious fiscal resources would certainly have been better spent with better outcomes.





# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Judith Ravencroft

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm / Business or Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION:**  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

**TESTIMONY:**  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:**



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Kathy Fischer

Title: Executive Direct

Firm / Business or Agency: NICIL

Address: 412 Locust St City: Sterling State: IL Zip: 61081

Email: Kathy@NICIL.org

**POSITION:**  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

**TESTIMONY:**  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:** *must have proper community supports in place - this is long over-due.*



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Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Chou, James

Title: Staff Associate

Firm / Business or Agency: Access Training

Address: 115 W. Chicago City: Chicago State: IL Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION:**  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

**TESTIMONY:**  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:**

IL - HAS TO INVEST  
IN COMMUNITY BASE SERVICES  
IS DEGRADING # SOURCE



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

SUBJECT MATTER: **Closure of Mabley Developmental Center**

### IDENTIFICATION:

Name: William Owens

Title: Volunteer Worker

Firm / Business or Agency: Accessing Access Living

Address: 2701 South Indiana Ave #1605 City: Chicago State: ILL Zip: 60616

Email: william Owens15@gmail.com

POSITION:  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

TESTIMONY:  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

### WRITTEN COMMENTS:

my name is William Owens  
I do volunteer work  
at Accessing Access Living  
at Access we do advocacy training  
~~at Accessing Access Living~~  
also we learn about  
legislative action  
that helps people to  
learn about their rights  
as people with disabilities  
people with disabilities  
have the right to live in the community  
NOT in institutions



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Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Donna K. Shaw

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm / Business or Agency: DAWWN

Address: 8746 S. Cornell Ave City: Chgo State: IL Zip: 60617

Email: donnakshaw96@gmail.com

POSITION:  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

TESTIMONY:  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

*need trainer Educator job,  
ref interpreter  
without IQ test*

*Support to close for no device/plus add ASL counselor  
requester need to special Blind/Deaf need more education,  
more interpreters/mentors  
~~requester~~ need hire deaf interpreter*



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Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Anthony Sims

Title: Advocate for seniors and handicap people

Firm / Business or Agency: Access Living

Address: 7121 N Ridge City: Chicago State: Ill Zip: 60645

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION:**  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

**TESTIMONY:**  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:**

*free our people I just got release from one of  
the many nursing facilities in the state of ill  
the condition was disturbing and deplorable - I personally  
call them death traps. Stop using dis-able people  
as a excuse to run these establishments*



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

SUBJECT MATTER: **Closure of Mabley Developmental Center**

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Thomas Wilson  
Title: Community Development Organizers Healthcare  
Firm / Business or Agency: Access Living  
Address: 115 W Chicago City: Chicago State: IL Zip: 60654  
Email: Tomw@accessliving.org

POSITION:  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

TESTIMONY:  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Institutions are an archaic form of warehousing people with disabilities. We have known for many years that people with disabilities do better integrated in the community. The community also benefits from the interaction with people living free in the community. Mabley must close. FREE OUR PEOPLE!



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

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## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

SUBJECT MATTER: **Closure of Mabley Developmental Center**

### IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Brian Kissick

Title: DSP

Firm / Business or Agency: Bethesda/and Family

Address: 2609 Somerset City: Rockford State: IL Zip: 61103

Email: Brian.Kissick@cyphos.com

POSITION:  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

TESTIMONY:  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

### WRITTEN COMMENTS:

I strongly oppose the closing of any mental health facilities. There are not enough homes or centers for the disabled and being a family member I am more committed to these individuals, and the employees who support them.





# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Beto Baucus

Title: Co-ED member

Firm / Business or Agency: Access Learning

Address: 115 W Chicago Ave City: Chgo State: I Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION:**  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

**TESTIMONY:**  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:**

We must give people a chance to live amongst their fellow citizens - I hate based on a democratic society, a few cannot profit on the degradation of others



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

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## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Elijah Boswell

Title: Witness

Firm / Business or Agency: Matthew House

Address: 3728 Indiana City: Chicago State: Ill Zip: 60653

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION:  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

TESTIMONY:  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:**

*Keep it Closure This Place.*



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Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Candace Coleman

Title: Community Organizer

Firm / Business or Agency: Access Living

Address: 115 W. Chicago City: Chicago State: IL Zip: 60654

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION:**  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

**TESTIMONY:**  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:**

I think people should have choices in life to live how they want with everyone else.



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## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Shirley Holtiday

Title: Payroll Specialist

Firm / Business or Agency: Kreider Services Inc

Address: L City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION:**  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

**TESTIMONY:**  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:**



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Latty Biondi

Title: Advocacy Coordinator

Firm / Business or Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 2040 Brown City: Evanston State: IL Zip: 60201

Email: lattybiondi@set.com.sbqglobal.net

**POSITION:**  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

**TESTIMONY:**  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

SUBJECT MATTER: **Closure of Mabley Developmental Center**

### IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Michelle Garcia

Title: Latino Community Organizer

Firm / Business or Agency: AL

Address: 115 W. Chicago Ave City: Chicago State: IL Zip: 60654

Email: mrobbins@accessliving.org

POSITION:  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

TESTIMONY:  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

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## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

SUBJECT MATTER: **Closure of Mabley Developmental Center**

### IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Michael Flores

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm / Business or Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 5454 W. Loop W City: Chicago State: IL Zip: 60630

Email: Flores Mike 2012@AOL.com

POSITION:

Proponent

Opponent

No Position

TESTIMONY:

Oral

Written Statement Filed

Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name:

*Wendy Partridge*

Title:

*Parent*

Firm / Business or Agency:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Email:

**POSITION:**



Proponent



Opponent



No Position

**TESTIMONY:**



Oral



Written Statement Filed



Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:**





# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

SUBJECT MATTER: **Closure of Mabley Developmental Center**

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Curtis Harris

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm / Business or Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 116 W Elm St Apt 1002 City: Chicago State: IL Zip: 60610

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION:  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

TESTIMONY:  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



# ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

## RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

10/17/11

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Closure of Mabley Developmental Center

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Name: Donnie Skeffington

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm / Business or Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1121 CENTER City: DIXON State: IL Zip: 61021

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION:**  Proponent  Opponent  No Position

**TESTIMONY:**  Oral  Written Statement Filed  Record of Appearance Only

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:**

# Opponents