

Written Testimony Submitted by Michael Matthews

Hello,

My name is Michael Matthews. I am a man with cerebral palsy, who is living independently because of TRIPIL. When I was 17 years old a staff member at the CIL reached out to me and invited me to TRIPIL. I came to TRIPIL with no hope and future for myself. I was in threat of falling through the cracks, but thankfully TRIPIL catches those who others write off. The staff at TRIPIL challenged and equipped me to be independent. I am living proof that their programs and services work. To be honest with you, I think OVR wrote me off at 17 as unemployable. As I write this I am 29 years old, married, own my home, employed full time, and my wife and I are expecting our first child in August. TRIPIL gave me the tools to make my dreams come true. When OVR holds funding from TRIPIL, it hurts people. People like me. the long shots. Please support TRIPIL in gaining their full funding from OVR.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Matthews

--

Mike Matthews
Civil Rights Specialist
Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living
Waynesburg office
30 N Washington Street
Waynesburg PA 15370
724-852-2016 (V)
724-852-1869 (Fax)
mike@tripil.com
"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."- Martin Luther King, Jr.