

# **ID/A COALITION**

**THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND AUTISM SERVICES COALITION OF PENNSYLVANIA**

January 16, 2018

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: ID/A Coalition Request to Meet with Governor Wolf

Dear Governor Wolf,

As the final work on your budget proposal is completed, **we wish to meet with you as soon as possible** to express our appreciation and seek your continued support in the 18/19 Budget and beyond.

Over the last several months we have met with key members of your Administration, and hundreds and thousands of Commonwealth citizens have called your office, spoken to legislators, and written letters to editors to raise awareness of the crisis faced by individuals with intellectual disability or autism, their family members, and our workforce members.

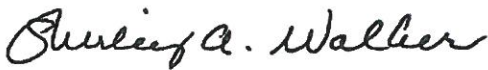
We express our appreciation to Secretaries Miller and Albright, **Deputy Secretary Nancy Thaler, and the staff of the Governor's Office** for their openness, candor and willingness to engage with members of our community regarding the thousands of Commonwealth citizens with intellectual disability or autism who are waiting for services and the over 35,000 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who work on behalf of the Commonwealth to provide quality supports and services in the community.

We are encouraged by the responsiveness and support we have encountered from the public and the General Assembly, including a public hearing held by the House Human Services Committee where legislators responded with compassion to testimony from family members and professionals who described the depth of the crisis in our community.

We remain deeply appreciative of your efforts in last year's budget that ended over ten years of failure to address the DSP wage issue. We look to you to continue your efforts that have given people in our community hope and the knowledge that the leader of our state cares about the difficulties they have endured for years.

Your words and deeds have touched many hearts. We trust your leadership and **look forward to meeting with you.**

Sincerely,



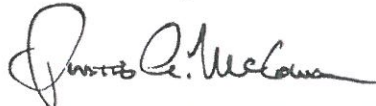
Shirley Walker, President and CEO  
PAR (Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism  
And Intellectual Disability)



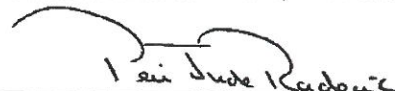
Maureen Cronin, Executive Director  
The Arc of Pennsylvania



Richard Edley, PhD, President and CEO  
Rehabilitation & Community Providers Association (RCPA)



Judith McCowan  
UCP of Pennsylvania ID/A Coalition Representative



Peri Jude Radecic, Esquire, CEO  
Disability Rights Pennsylvania