RCPA
REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

May 11, 2020

Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

The Board of Directors and the members of the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association ("RCPA") that assure the daily provision of care and supports to over one million individuals throughout Pennsylvania, including thousands with intellectual disability or autism ("ID/A") thank you for your leadership as you guide the Commonwealth through this unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. You have consistently spoken frankly and clearly, with a calm but urgent tone, as we confront the daily and still evolving challenges caused by the virus.

With a clear understanding of the range and importance of the matters you must address every day, we urge you to work with the key members of your administration **to immediately implement long discussed enhancements to the Medical Assistance funded ID/A payment fees and rates.** The news that Pennsylvania is responsibly moving to reopen does not diminish the severe financial crisis that ID/A providers are experiencing as they strain to provide access to high quality care and supports to their consumers. Consider as providers endure a nearly 25% drop in revenue from virus caused shuttered programs, they are also incurring (and will continue to incur) dramatic and unsustainable increased expenditures attributable to the purchase of essential protective equipment, more frequent and intense cleaning of residences, increased compensation to recognize obviously increased and hazardous work experiences, increased overtime exacerbated by resignations and virus related illness, and the continuing need to train current and new staff.

You have the ability and power to ensure that these critical programs continue to provide services to these vulnerable Pennsylvanians. ID/A providers are sustaining unrelenting increased COVID- related expenses that they must incur to meet the needs of the individuals whose care they are responsible for and whom they dutifully serve every day. Unlike other corporations and businesses, however, ID/A providers have no control over their publicly funded revenue stream and thus the payments they receive for their services. While many large corporations have the resources to survive the pandemic, many ID/A providers in Pennsylvania may not be as fortunate.

Please note that we believe that the Commonwealth has a legal obligation to assure that the fees and rates that it pays for ID/A services align with the reasonable and undisputable costs that ID/A provider experience to assure the provision of quality care and supports to their consumers. But legalities aside,

in this crisis, given the unavoidable increased financial pressures thrust on ID/A providers that essentially depend entirely on the Medical Assistance Program for their revenues, the Commonwealth also has a moral responsibility to act.

Your strong sense of right and wrong has always been a hallmark of your leadership. In this critical moment, we ask that you act on what we know are your values and provide this funding.

RCPA wishes you continued good health and much success in these difficult times. We appreciate your consideration of the dire circumstances ID/A providers are confronting and look forward to your prompt assistance.

On behalf of the RCPA Board of Directors,

Richard S. Edley, PhD
President and CEO

Cc Mike Brunelle, Governor's Office
Teresa Miller, Secretary DHS
Clarke Madden, Executive Deputy Secretary DHS
Drew Wilburne, Intergovernmental Affairs DHS
Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary ODP