



February 1, 2018

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

Re: FY 18-19 and Jobs that Pay: A Living Wage for DSPs

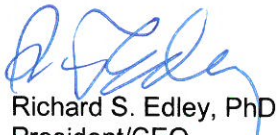
Dear Governor Wolf,

On January 17th, our association in conjunction with members of the ID/A Coalition had the opportunity to meet with Secretary Randy Albright to discuss our \$60 million appropriation request for Direct Support Professionals in your upcoming budget proposal for FY 18-19. We are aware of the challenges that you face in presenting a budget that meets the many diverse needs of your constituents, and RCPA and its Intellectual Disability members appreciate the support you have shown in the past year for supporting an increase in rates to the intellectual disability community.

The coalition's \$60 million appropriation request for Direct Support Professionals is truly needed to retain quality individuals, who serve the most vulnerable members in our community, because without this funding our members will continue to have challenges recruiting and retaining Direct Support Professionals. Your words endorsing a Living Wage for Direct Support Professionals has inspired our members to have hope that you will continue to make this issue a priority.

RCPA respectfully requests you to support our appropriation request for Direct Support Professionals, who provide services to individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities on a daily basis.

Sincerely,



Richard S. Edley, PhD
President/CEO

The Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) represents over 330 members serving well over 1 million Pennsylvanians annually, RCPA is among the largest and most diverse state health and human services trade associations in the nation. The 330 members that RCPA represents include nearly 70 drug and alcohol agencies that operate close to 170 licensed drug and alcohol facilities in every county in the Commonwealth. A statewide organization, RCPA advocates for those in need, works to advance effective state and federal public policies, and provides professional support to members.