

Community Leaders and Advocates Urge Secretary Levine to Address Needs of Pennsylvanians with ID/A

RCPA joined with other leaders from provider associations and advocacy organizations to share our concerns specific to individuals with ID/A, their families and the providers of service, with Secretary Levine in a letter on April 8, 2020. The letter states:

'We respectfully ask that you routinely include in your conversations about COVID-19, the impact and recommendations on all Pennsylvanians with intellectual disability or autism (ID/A) and direct support professionals (DSPs). People with ID/A, their families and ID/A providers have been visibly missing from the public discourse.

We believe there are several specific opportunities to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on these constituents and on the general public health. Examples of these opportunities include assuring PPE for front line DSPs, person-specific assistance for individuals with ID/A while hospitalized, and declaration of DSPs as essential workers and health care providers. The positive resolution of these examples will improve the general public health, decrease hospital utilization and ensure the availability of critical supports for people with ID/A."

The full letter can be [accessed here](#).