

The Honorable Senator John Fetterman
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

August 30, 2024

Dear Senator Fetterman,

The Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) is among the largest and most diverse state health and human services trade associations in the nation. RCPA advocates for those in need, and works to advance effective state and federal public policies and practices for nearly 400 members, the majority of who serve over one million Pennsylvanians annually. RCPA, in conjunction with our provider members, are writing to express our full support for the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the critical programs it provides to working and job-seeking Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Vocational rehabilitation funding is essential in Pennsylvania to maintain services that support the advancement of employment. We are fortunate that our state legislature has consistently funded the Pennsylvania OVR in a manner that has allowed OVR to collect the full federal match and even draw down more when there is a surplus.

However, if the mandated inflationary increases are rescinded, Pennsylvania's OVR funding will be cut by millions of dollars, adversely impacting working and job-seeking Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Specifically, approximately \$13M would be eliminated from a limited \$200M budget, or 6.5%. The resources provided to PA OVR are too valuable and already limited. This potential action forces Pennsylvania to prioritize allocations at the expense of critical employment and related services. Maintaining funding levels is crucial for advancing employment for individuals with disabilities.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



[Richard S. Edley, PhD](#)
President/CEO