

Kevin Hancock
Deputy Secretary
Office of Long-term Living
Department of Human Services
555 Walnut Street, Forum Place, 6th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Brain Injury Providers as Life Sustaining

Dear Deputy Secretary Hancock:

I am writing to you, with my fellow advocates and provider associations, in support of having Brain Injury Services Providers designated as Life Sustaining during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The consumers served by these providers, especially those in residential habilitation and personal care home settings, are all receiving supports in the community because they are deemed to be Nursing Facility Clinically Eligible. The risks of spreading the virus in settings, where these services are delivered, are identical the those in skilled nursing facilities and the community where personal assistance services are delivered. There should be no distinction between these services and any of the others approved under the Office of Long Term Living waivers.

[This letter](#) was sent to you on April 21, detailing the matter and the considerations to be taken. Additionally, we gathered [individual situations and consumer stories](#) from providers to demonstrate the reality of the critical nature that the Brain Injury Services are truly life sustaining.

We urge you to act promptly to designate these services are Life Sustaining as we navigate through this challenging period, removing any confusion about the essential need for these consumers to continue to live safely in the community.

Sincerely,



Richard S. Edley, PhD
President/CEO

ADAPT
Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania
Conference of Allegheny Providers
Disability in Action
Disability Rights Pennsylvania
Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
Pennsylvania Council on Independent Living
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Pennsylvania Providers Coalition Association
Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council



CC: Teresa Miller, Secretary, DHS
Clarke Madden, Executive Deputy Secretary, DHS
Drew Wilburne, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, DHS
Anna Keith, VP Community Relations, PA Health & Wellness
Brendan Harris, Vice President of Government Programs, CE/NE PA, UPMC
Pattie Wright, VP Community HealthChoices Administrator Pennsylvania, AmeriHealth Caritas/Keystone First
Fady Sahhar, COO, RCP SO
Joan Martin, Senior Associate, Wojdak Government Relations
Melissa Dehoff, Rehabilitation Services Director, RCPA