



# Making a world of difference in people's lives

August 11, 2023

Honorable Josh Shapiro  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro,

The National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) is the nation's leading advocacy, training and credentialing body for the direct support professional workforce that assists hundreds of thousands of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in every community in the country.

In 1996, our founder, John F. Kennedy Jr., wrote, "Quality is defined at the point of interaction between the staff member and the individual with a disability." Given this, our mission is to enhance the quality of support provided to people with disabilities by elevating the status of direct support workers by improving practice standards, promoting systems reform and, most importantly, advancing their knowledge, skills, and values.

Over the past two years, we have worked closely with dozens of disability provider organizations, and the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) to help professionalize the Commonwealth's workforce through our award-winning digital credentialing program. I am pleased to share that Pennsylvania leads the country in supporting our efforts in advancing credentialing opportunities for direct care workers that leads to a variety of positive outcomes. You and your team at ODP are to be commended for providing these funding opportunities.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, after four long years of the pandemic, we will be gathering for an in-person conference at The Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square where 500 direct care workers will be recognized and celebrated for their essential contributions in keeping our most vulnerable citizens healthy and safe from the virus for three, long years.

This year's conference is a very special event, and therefore, I would like to extend an invitation for you to join us in welcoming these healthcare workers to the Pennsylvania and for you to have an opportunity to share your vision and commitment to supporting people with disabilities across Pennsylvania.

I understand that your schedule is very busy, below are a few options that I hope you might consider providing some remarks:



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- Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM,
- Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 5:00PM,
- Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM,
- Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM.

On behalf of all of us at the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals, thank you for considering this special request. Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact me via e-mail at [jmacbeth@nadsp.org](mailto:jmacbeth@nadsp.org) or by phone at 518-542-6945.

Respectfully,

Joseph M. Macbeth  
President and Chief Executive Officer