



**Associated Production Services, Inc.**  
*The Packaging Performance People™*  
Empowering Disabled Workers

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June 21, 2019

Dear Friends of APS,

I write you today with critical news and another **CALL TO ACTION!** Our fiscal crisis is now well defined and is extremely challenging.

As you know in March ODP proposed a 24.5% rate decrease in our waiver funding.

Please know that on June 5th, I provided testimony to the Health and Human Services Committee, to view the hearing please visit Gene DiGirolamo's website ([www.genedigirolamo.com](http://www.genedigirolamo.com)). On June 14th I also attended a meeting with Kristin Ahrens, ODP Deputy Secretary, which yielded no positive outcome. The reality is that our facility rates are being cut by 7% effective July 1, 2019, therefore, this is a \$430,000.00 reduction per year from our currently tight budget.

Please be assured that we will exercise every remedy possible to avoid closing some or all of our centers. Unfortunately our staff will bear the initial brunt of this through loss of benefits and reduction in wages.

Please review the attached letter I sent to Governor Tom Wolf's office petitioning for his support. To date we have not heard any response.

Once again we need your voices heard and ask you to contact any or all of the below offices on the importance of work centers as a choice for your loved ones.

Please tell your personal story of what it would mean to your family if work centers are forced to close due to funding rate cuts and the mandate of Community Participation programs. Petition that the rates remain at the current levels.

**WRITE, CALL or EMAIL**

Governor Tom Wolf - [www.governor.pa.gov/contact/](http://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/)  
Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capital Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Harrisburg #(717) 787-2500 - Southeast Region #(215)560-2640

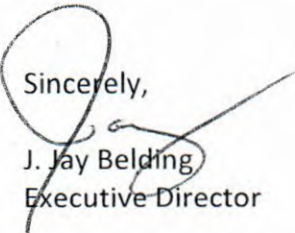
**Your local Representatives**

To find your legislator: Google – "Find my legislator PA"

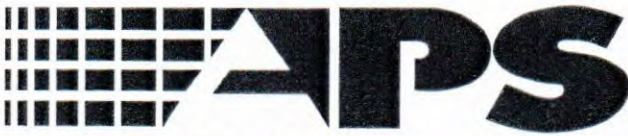
**PA Department of Human Services**

[www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov) - Go to Contact Us page

Sincerely,

  
J. Jay Belding  
Executive Director





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June 11, 2019

Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

My name is Jay Belding. I reside in Newtown, Bucks County Pennsylvania, I am the founder and Executive Director of Associated Production Services, Inc., a vocational training work center empowering 520 developmentally disabled Pennsylvanians in five sites licensed by the Office of Developmental Programs of the Health and Human Services Department.

Last Wednesday I testified at a hearing conducted by the House committee on Health and Human Services to voice my grave concerns regarding the new rate cuts that ODP is proposing. It became clear to me then that I need to please petition you and your staff to become aware of these proposals, and urge your action in our defense.

I know that you and your administration champion the sanctity of good government; one that is founded on and protects the fundamental principles of freedom and choice, opportunity for all, and strong families. The recent actions of ODP completely violates each of these constructs.

Twenty-two thousand persons are engaged each day in vocational training based centers that are a proud legacy of the care Pennsylvanians provide their fellow citizens who need special support and accommodations. ODP has embarked on a mission of closing these facilities in the immediate future. We are in a crisis. No viable outcome but isolation at home is what the vast majority of these persons face.

Your study will illuminate you to the facts that for two years ODP has introduced and incepted policies and programs that are meant to systematically remove choice of employ and the very option of work centers by fiscally starving them into demise. ODP is mandating the inclusion of work center participants into Community Participation activities during the work day. These activities are to be volunteer based or educational and recreational in nature; i.e. no pay. Secondly ODP modified through liaison with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation the terms and conditions for the option or privilege for consumers to attend work centers until they are 25 and have failed at succeeding at a minimum wage job.

Finally, about eight weeks ago ODP proposed "shifting" dollars by reducing the reimbursement rate to work centers by 24.5% and moving it to the programs that focus on Community

Participation raising their rates by 118%! Disingenuous and disrespectful are the only appropriate adjectives here. On the Friday before Memorial Day we were informed that the cut was reduced to 7% for our facility; still completely untenable.

We completely trust that your musings will lead to our conclusions that ODP must cease and desist from these policies and mandates which are fundamentally flawed, are based on a monolithic, dated philosophic premise, are financially irresponsible, and most importantly do not meet the unique needs and wants of those being served.

To date, at best, vague and diffused communication has been the hallmark of ODP's directives and response to advocates and families.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your participation in insuring vocational opportunity; by choice for Pennsylvanians developmentally disabled citizens.

I would be most grateful for acknowledgment of receipt of this note.

Sincerely,

J. Jay Belding  
Executive Director/Founder

