



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

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November 29, 2016

To our Esteemed Elected Officials:

I write to you at this time because I need to share with you what is now transpiring across the State and to solicit your attention to our plight.

I am Jay Belding. Together with my wife Barbara we founded Associated Production Services, Inc. in 1977 with a commitment to supporting and serving individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are today a State licensed Pre-Vocational work site (sheltered workshop) dedicated to providing our 575 trainees with job training, wage earning work, which exposes them to proper and efficient work skills, attitudes and behavior. With our staff of 100 we operate in 6 facilities in the greater Delaware Valley. We train our people by having them work on a variety of labor intensive contract packaging jobs. In response to the erosion of manufacturing we have invested heavily in equipment and plant improvements and we now specialize in confectionary and other prepackaged foods. We call our program the "productive model", we guarantee our trainees 5 full days of work each week.

I write to you because we are serving voting families in your district.

Please avail yourself of our web site at [apspackage.com](http://apspackage.com) and please find enclosed a brochure describing our mission and services. I invite you to visit any or all of our sites at any time.

Please know that based on our understanding of latest developments, on December 3rd the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) of the State Department of Human Services (DHS) will issue a proposed plan as part of a Medicaid waiver renewal process that will change day programming for developmentally disabled adults. The plan has been authored in response to a mandate from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services - CMS, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. This mandate, the "Final Rule" evolves from the American Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Olmstead decision of the Supreme Court in 1999. The court held that public entities must provide community based services to persons with disabilities. In 2014 CMS promulgated a regulation that settings like ours would be subject to "heightened scrutiny" to insure that each individual being supported was receiving maximum opportunity to be integrated into their communities with competitive employment as an ultimate goal, and that no facility have the qualities of an institution. Workshops like ours will be subject to heightened scrutiny and could lose Waiver funds that could possibly eliminate these opportunities for families in your district, if we are to lose this funding we would have to close.

Pennsylvania's proposed plan to comply with the Federal Rule is currently expected to state that there will be a phase in of standards (diagram enclosed) such that day time activity of people with

