March 15, 2017

Dear Staff, Parents, Consumers and Friends of APS,

I need to take this opportunity to express to you my sincerest THANK YOU for all you did to help us achieve victory in protecting and preserving choice in Pennsylvania. Sheltered workshops will continue to be an option for those who believe they can benefit from the programs they offer.

As a staff we feel confident that in the next few months we will incept some initial programs and enjoin you in conversations as to how we will meet the new guidelines. The ISP meeting will be the forum during which we discuss and document our community participation activities.

By April 1st, ODP will submit an amended plan. By July 1st CMS will respond to the new plan.

To quote Ted Dallas, PA Secretary of Human Services, in a message sent on March 3, 2017:

- “We are not closing workshops or adult day programs”
- “Each individual has the choice of whether or not to participate in community activity, the amount, and frequency. That determination will be made with their ISP team.”

We can all be proud of the significant role APS played in this wonderful resolve. Together, as a team, we passionately, yet always diplomatically, made our points and advocated with reason and logic. We can also take pleasure in the fact that since December 5th, thousands of legislators and citizens have been made aware of the competency and great work people who attend workshops do every day; contributing to their community, and earning the dignity and respect they deserve by working hard and striving to enjoy a fruitful life.

Thank you,

J. Jay Belding
Executive Director