I am writing on behalf of the Alliance Center for Independence (ACI), a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities and their families in Middlesex, Union and Somerset counties. ACI based in Edison, is one of 11 centers for Independent living in NJ. We are mandated to provide information and referral services, peer support, advocacy, independent living services and transition services.

Since Hurricane Irene, ACI has also worked to ensure that people with disabilities are not forgotten during an emergency or crisis. The coronavirus pandemic crisis is no exception.

During the crisis, ACI has worked closely with the Governor’s office, the Office of Emergency Management, the NJ Department of Health, and Middlesex County Office on Aging and Disabled Services, among other agencies, on a number of important issues surrounding people with disabilities and the pandemic, including food insecurity issues, allocation of critical care resources, hospitalization visitation, and the lack of availability of PPE for direct service personnel and individuals.

Enclosed please find a letter detailing our concerns, which we submitted to Governor Murphy's office last month. Although there has been some movement on these issues, more needs to be done. ACI feels strongly that a legislative response to the current crisis facing people with disabilities is vital. To that end, we are writing to all the members of the state legislature that represent towns in Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties.

As we continue our efforts in the months ahead, we look forward to speaking with you on these and other crucial issues facing people with disabilities and their families.

Luke Koppisch

Deputy Director

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