

PACC ADVOCACY INFORMATION

Contact Information for:

- Pennsylvania United States Congressman and Senators
- Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senators
- Pennsylvania Governor and his staff
- Secretary Department of Human Services
- Deputy Secretary Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)
- Other PA Legislative Leaders

Process for identifying and contacting your PA Legislators: Representatives and Senators

Script/Email: What to say to Legislators:

PAR/PACC Calling Tips

PAR/PACC Talking Points

Contact Information:

PA United States Congressman for PACC Carnegie Office, Conner Lamb

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Washington D.C. 20515

202.225.2301

Email: lamb.house.gov/contact/email

PA Senator Bob Casey

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Washington D.C. 20510

202.224.6324

866.802.2833

Email: casey.senate.gov/contact

PA Senator Pat Toomey
248 Russell Senate Office building
Washington D.C. 20510
202.224.4254

Email: Toomey.senate.gov/?p+contact

PA Governor Tom Wolf
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Chief of Staff for Governor Wolf; Mike Brunelle
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Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Wolf; Alison Beam
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Secretary Department of Human Services
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Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senators:

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District Offices:
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PA Capital Office:
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Email: pahouse.com/kulik/contact

Friend of PACC: Dan Miller for Mt. Lebanon, PA
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PA Capital Office:
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IDA Caucus member: Brandon Markosek
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Capital Office
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Email: pahouse.com/25/Contact

Senator:

Wayne Fontana for Carnegie, PA

District Office:

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412.344.2551

PA Capital Office:

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Jay Costa: Democratic Leader

District Office:

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Pgh, PA 15221

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PA Capital Office:

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Other PA Legislative Leaders:

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Representatives:

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Process for identifying and contacting your PA Legislators: Representatives and Senators

Go to the PA General Assembly website at <https://www.legis.state.pa.us>

Hover over the tab for Senators and Representatives

Click on “Who is My Legislator?”

You can find out who are your Representative(s) or Senator by:

- Address: type in your home address (this will result in the most accurate search)
- County: type in your home county
- Map: click on your home county

You now arrive at the “Find Your Legislator” screen listing the Legislator(s) or Senator for your home address and county

- Your Legislator(s) will be listed

Click on the name(s) of your Legislator(s)

You now arrive at your Legislators page where you will find their contact information

- Addresses and phone numbers for their Local and Harrisburg offices
- To contact by email:
Under their picture on the extreme left, click the envelope icon

Script/Email: What to say to Legislators:

Dear Senator/Representative _____,

Allow me to introduce you to PACC (PA Connecting Communities). PACC is a Nonprofit based out of Carnegie, PA in Southwestern Pennsylvania serving over 3,000 Individuals in 11 counties who have Intellectual Disabilities and Autism.

The Lion’s share of the services PACC provides is in Home and Community in addition to Behavioral, Supportive Employment and Transition. The goal of our services is to help these Individuals live an “Everyday Life” promoting lifelong learning, employment, and socialization through programs, activities and events connecting Individuals to their communities.

Below are just 2 of their stories providing you with a brief snapshot representing many of our Individuals.

Name of Individual and their story:

Name of Individual and their story

In the mist of navigating COVID-19, we at PACC have found ourselves unable to sustain without financial support through the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) 75% Retainer Payments needed for the services we provide.

Our fear is that if we do not receive this funding soon, PACC will be forced to close its door. The effects of our closure would be devastating on our Individuals and their families! Everything we’ve worked so hard for over the last 16 years will set back this industry by 20 years! Why?...waiting lists will grow dramatically for residential living, residential homes will become way overcrowded and forced to turn away Individuals needing services. The industry we will lose passionate and dedicated staff members who are unable to overcome their current financial hardships!

Senator/Representative _____,

Example: Senator Iovino, there are 630 of PACCs Individuals, Patrons, Advocates, Supporters and Friends residing within your District and Influence. Amazingly, his number does not include the many other individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism that reside in your district that PACC does not serve.

Senators:

Lindsey Williams 479
Jay Costa 470
Wayne Fontana 290
Carmera Barlolotta 106
Elder Vogel Jr 193
Mario Scavello 172
Judy Ward 109
John Gordner 87
Jeremy Schaffer 83
Brandon Markosek 52
Daryl Metcalfe 35
Pam Iovino 630

Representatives:

Lori Mizgorski 173
Jason Orititay 64
Adam Ravensthal 59
Natalie Mihalek 127
Anita Kulik 242
Ed Gainey 108
Ausitn Davis 132
Dan Frankel 57
Valarie Gaydos 175
Sara Innamorato 214
Jim Marshall 153
Tony DeLuca 108
Tim O'Neal 101
Dan Deasey 95
Eric Nelson 79

PACC is at the "11th Hour" so we need your help! Please implore Governor Tom Wolf and other legislators to approve the 75% Retainer Payment so we can continue providing our Individuals, residents of your District, an ongoing opportunity to live that Everyday Life!

The lives of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism, and many other disabilities, some of our most vulnerable population, depends on it!

Thank You!

PAR/PACC Calling Tips:

When calling legislators, first and foremost please be polite and respectful. Legislative staff are working under strain too and a little empathy will go a long way in making sure your phone message reaches legislators. When you call be sure to identify yourself as a constituent and a voter. Provide your address, phone number and email to the person taking your call. Use the script supported by the talking points.

Conclude your call by repeating that you are asking the PA Senator/Representative to please ensure funding for

- PACC to receive the 75% Retainer Payment
- DSP wages is included in the state's COVID-19 pandemic-related budget
- Ask if you can count on the PA Senator/Representative's support. Ask politely if you may call back in a few days to find out.

Remember, every call you make, every email you send, raises awareness for the ID/A community. The more the legislature hears from us, the more likely we will be represented and supported by our elected officials. Don't be discouraged and never give up! Ask your friends and family members to make calls and send emails too. By standing together we can be heard!

PAR/PACC Talking Points:

You may use these when calling PA Legislators

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, providers of services to those with intellectual disabilities and autism such as PACC had no choice but to suspend services in the community to protect the individuals and the families we serve and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

So, right now, we have thousands of Pennsylvanians who are not receiving all of the services that they need because we have closed community settings and any nonessential facility where people gather.

But our DSPs are stepping up and they are providing services virtually and in clients' homes every day.

They are working throughout this crisis, under very difficult circumstances, helping clients through this emergency.

Providers such as PACC are doing their best to make sure that DSPs take every precaution and that they have the personal protective equipment (PPE) they need but you can imagine the stress that they're under. Providers aren't able to get enough PPE.

Our system for delivering services was already under massive stress before COVID-19. We didn't have enough DSPs with 1 out of 5 positions being unfilled and about 1/3 of all DSPs leaving their jobs every year. As a result, the DSPs who stay are working tremendous amounts of overtime and often they too, decide to move on.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, ID/A providers such as PACC have had higher costs, paying more for DSP overtime, personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitization and cleaning, and Hero pay for DSPs.

Many ID/A providers are at risk of going out of business from lost revenue and increased costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If our (loved one - son, daughter, brother, sister, client) was not able to get the supports they need, their life and our life will be devastated (share what your clients' live and your life would be like without your DSPs)

Providers such as PACC are running out of staff, PPE and money. We are scared and running out of patience. Please approve COVID-19 pandemic-related funding...the 75%Retainer Payment for PACC and other ID/A providers and DSPs now.