



September 18, 2020

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
Attention: Commissioner Theodore Kastner
theodore.a.kastner@opwdd.ny.gov

Dear Commissioner Kastner:

We are writing to you today to first thank you for establishing the policy to waive from the 20% withhold all housing related payments (rental subsidies, utilities, etc.) being made by OPWDD to support individuals living independently in their own apartments. However, the current waiver from the 20% withhold is due to expire at the end of September and, as of yet, has not been officially extended. Since we are approaching the end of the month, it is critical that an extension be announced as soon as possible. We would also ask that the extension of this waiver not be time limited.

We have identified approximately 5,000 individuals who are currently receiving housing related subsidies, who, along with the CCOs, their families and the service providers who may support them, are very anxious about the fact that any interruption in this funding could lead to individuals losing their apartment, rendering them homeless and impacting their independence.

The approximately 5,000 impacted individuals are counting on your continued support and again thank you.

Sincerely,

Lewis Grossman, CEO, Advanced Care Alliance NY
James Moran, CEO, Care Design NY
Nicholas Cappoletti, CEO, LIFEPlan CCO NY
Bridget Bartolone, President & CEO, Person Centered Services
Katie Wagner, Executive Director, Prime Care Coordination
Patricia Kennedy, Board President, Southern Tier Connect
Yoel Bernath, CEO, Tri-County Care