



BARC Developmental Services

Executive Offices • 4950 York Road • P.O. Box 470 • Holicong, Pennsylvania 18928-0470

(215) 794-0800 • FAX (215) 794-0958

WEBSITE www.barcprograms.org • E-MAIL info@barcprograms.net

TO: Workers, Parents, Family Members, Providers

FROM: Scott Kulp, Director of Vocational Services & Development

RE: Call the Governor's Office

DATE: January 12th, 2018

We are asking you, and your family members and friends, to call Governor Tom Wolf's office next Thursday, January 18th, 2018, urging him to include \$60 million in the state budget for 2018-2019 to increase the wages of Direct Support Professionals, who provide care to your family members in programs like BARC Developmental Services. Direct Support Professionals are the backbone of the services we provide, yet they are critically underpaid, and must often work two jobs!

Please read the attached instructions for calling the Governor and what to say. Your call can make a difference. Thank you for your help with this urgent matter.

FIX THE DSP CRISIS.

Governor Wolf and his staff are currently preparing his Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget Proposal, which will be announced on February 8, 2018. We need to show him how important it is to Fix The DSP Crisis and that we need his leadership with a \$60 million investment in DSP Wages in the FY 18/19 Pennsylvania Budget. Follow the instructions below to help us reach 3,000 phone calls to Governor Wolf in January!

Instructions for Calling the Governor Wolf's Office about his Budget Proposal:

1. Dial 717-787-2500. A staff person will answer the phone or it will go to voicemail.
2. Give your Name and organization with which you are affiliated.
3. Choose one of the following messages and/or share your own message and story:

Governor Wolf has made Jobs That Pay a priority for his administration and I believe that he truly cares about wages for Pennsylvanians. He has said that "we must... ensure that Direct Support Professionals are paid a living wage." Right now, the rates paid by the state for intellectual disability and autism services are causing Direct Support Professionals to be paid poverty-level wages. Please ask the Governor to include \$60 million in his FY 18/19 Budget to be directed to increasing Direct Support Professional wages on a path toward a living wage. Can I count on him to keep his commitment to Direct Support Professionals?

OR

I want to thank Governor Wolf for the investment he made in intellectual disability/autism services in last year's budget. He has said that "we must... ensure that Direct Support Professionals are paid a living wage." Please ask the Governor to include \$60 million in his FY 18/19 Budget Proposal to be directed to increasing Direct Support Professional wages on a path toward a living wage. Without the Governor taking the lead, Direct Support Professionals will continue to earn poverty wages and be dependent on food stamps, housing supports, Medicaid and other public assistance to support their families and to survive. Can I count on him to keep his commitment to Direct Support Professionals?

OR

I am a Direct Support Professional. I love my job, but I can't support myself or my family on the wages I get. Many of my colleagues have been forced to leave jobs they love in order to support their families. Governor Wolf has said that "we must... ensure that Direct Support Professionals are paid a living wage." Can I count on him to keep his commitment to Direct Support Professionals? Please ask the Governor to include \$60 million in his FY 18/19 Budget Proposal to be directed to increasing Direct Support Professional wages on a path toward a living wage.

OR

My [family member] has [an intellectual disability or autism] and depends on [his/her] Direct Support Professional[s] for the services and supports needed to survive and thrive in the community. It has been heartbreaking to see trusted Direct Support Professionals leave because they can't survive on these poverty-level wages. Governor Wolf has said that "we must... ensure that Direct Support Professionals are paid a living wage." Please ask the Governor to include \$60 million in his FY 18/19 Budget Proposal to be directed to increasing Direct Support Professional wages on a path toward a living wage. Can I count on him to keep his continue his commitment to Direct Support Professionals?