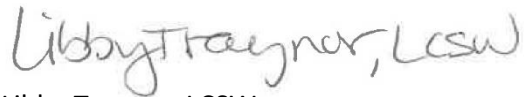


April 9, 2020

Dear AABR Staff and Family,

We've learned that Congress may begin drafting a fourth COVID-19 package as early as this week. I have been in touch with Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio- Cortez advocating for additional funding to support agencies like ours and the Disability communities across this nation for additional funding from the next stimulus package to be delivered directly to providers. **Please read the attached sheet to see how you can help.**

Stay well,



Libby Traynor, LCSW
Executive Director



To get this message heard, we need your help!

We are supporting the NY Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation and the American Network of Community Options and Resources' (ANCOR) joint effort to send a message to our representatives to let them know that they need to address the continuing challenges in disability support during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Time is of the essence, so we ask that you take the below steps TODAY:

1. Copy the below message. Feel free to modify it to your own voice if you'd like. Ex. "Where I work" "Where my son/daughter receives services."
2. [Click this link to go to the ANCOR website](#)
3. Click under Message Body on the right side of your page and paste your message.
4. Fill in your contact info.
5. Hit send.

And, if you'd like, please forward this email to your friends and family and ask them to do the same thing!

COPY BELOW:

AABR is an organization at the epicenter of the COVID pandemic in Queens, NY where 68% of our disabled individuals tested positive for COVID 19 in our congregate care settings. 20% of our HERO DSP staff are essential health care workers have also tested positive. Emergency enhanced rates are needed immediately to cover the cost of caring for our individuals in their homes as opposed to sending them to the overburdened NYC hospitals. WE BEG for your attention to this matter. NY is the leader in Disability Advocacy. Lead this nation in this pandemic on how they will be treated now. KEEP THE NY PROMISE to these individuals and families! Please keep in mind essential Medicaid disability supports as you prepare a fourth COVID-19 package. While I am grateful that the CARES Act contained provisions such as reimbursing front line staff's time supporting people with disabilities during hospital stays, the coronavirus' impact is growing exponentially and continues to disrupt key community supports that are keeping people with disabilities healthy and safe at home. Including funding for the following purposes in any forthcoming COVID-19 package will ensure these supports' survival:

- (1) Sustain the operations of Medicaid-funded disability service providers.
- (2) Prevent the closure of disability programs.
- (3) Supercharge staff stabilization, retention, and recruitment.

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) can provide you with more detailed suggestions. Please contact Sarah Meek, ANCOR's Senior Director of Legislative Affairs, at smeek@ancor.org for more information.

Thank you again for your hard work during this crisis.