

To IACP Members.

The mental health and disability services industry needs relentless advocates – people who support the important work of community integration and supporting choice for the individuals we serve. There are many advocates who currently support the important work we do. Families, friends, neighbors, clients, and agencies like yours all lend a voice to supporting disability services. However, I believe we often forget to engage a key ally in our work to support the persons we serve.

These allies are the state senators and representatives in the lowa legislature. Support of mental health and disability services is a non-partisan issue. As my experience on the lowa Providers PAC Committee and Government Relations Committee has demonstrated both parties have people who support our efforts to have "all lowans live, work, and learn in their community of choice." It has also shown me that there are many legislators who are unfamiliar with the work and needs of our agencies.

Relationships with our legislators are key to their understanding our needs which can result in advocacy efforts on our behalf. IACP's priority for the upcoming legislative session is still a 10% rate increase with 75% of the increase being passed to Direct Support Professionals. There are limited dollars available so we will need every ally we can find to support our legislative efforts.

The lowa Providers PAC is a critical component of IACP's legislative work. This work – the advocacy for persons served, can only be done by like-minded individuals coming together by pooling financial resources. These financial resources can then be used to support political candidates, regardless of political affiliation, who share our concerns and goals. To be clear, a donation gives us a seat at the table so our voice can be heard. I support the lowa Providers PAC and I invite all members of IACP to donate to the lowa Provider's PAC.

Together, we can strengthen our voice in the lowa Legislature.

Sincerely

Shane Buer Executive Director Skyline Center, Inc.

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