

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

SELF-DETERMINATION ♦ INDEPENDENCE ♦ PRODUCTIVITY ♦ INTEGRATION ♦ INCLUSION

February 11, 2020

Governor John Bel Edwards
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Selection of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health

Dear Governor Edwards,


As you consider the important task of selecting someone to lead the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) encourages you to maintain your track record and focus of assuring individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are participants in the design of and have access to needed community services and individualized supports, that promote self-determination, independence, productivity and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

The Council commends you and your administration for handling billion dollar deficits while simultaneously transforming the system so individuals with developmental disabilities no longer have to wait ten plus years for a waiver and restoring rates to the providers of needed home and community-based services. Your administration continued to maintain a clear focus on working with people with developmental disabilities and their family members to prioritize these critical services. For these accomplishments, and many more, the Council commends you and your administration.

As with so many decisions, the selection of the leader of LDH is of utmost importance in shaping the direction of health care and the service delivery system for people with developmental disabilities. The Council trusts your vision, leadership and values remain steadfast and wish you well in selecting a leader of LDH who will continue to advance your legacy in providing for the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Respectfully,



April Dunn

AD:spf