**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

**\*\*THIS IS A DRAFT ONLY. YOU MUST PERSONALIZE AND TAILOR THIS LETTER TO YOU OR YOUR FACILITY BEFORE SENDING – REMEMBER TO DELETE THIS AND THE BELOW TEMPLATE NOTES AND BE SURE TO CAREFULLY REVIEW YOUR FINAL LETTER BEFORE SUBMITTING\*\***

[ADD DATE HERE], 2019

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Governor Cuomo,

I am writing to ask you to support an increase the State portion of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Congregate Care Level 3 rate by $20 per day per resident over five years. This increase is desperately needed to enable adult care facilities (ACFs) to continue to care for SSI recipients.

[NAME OF CENTER HERE] is committed to providing high quality care and continually strive to do the best for the people we serve. The current SSI rate for ACF residents is less than $41 per day, which is roughly half of the average cost of providing ACF services. Such services include personal care, case management, meals, assistance with medications, activities, housekeeping, maintenance, and more. It has been over 10 years since the SSI rate has seen an increase. Last year, the Senate included a rate increase in its One-House Budget proposal, but unfortunately it was not included in the final 2019-20 Budget.

The Legislature has recognized the importance of this issue, having unanimously passed legislation in 2017 to increase the SSI rate to adult care facilities, (See S.6732/A.6715-B), but this was vetoed on the basis that given the financial impact, it should be addressed in the Budget (Veto Message 241, 2017). Sadly, the 2019-20 Executive Budget contained no proposal for addressing the inadequate SSI rate. Our hope is that this year you will include language and some of the funding needed for a rate increase in your Executive Budget proposal.

Increasing the SSI rate is necessary to help prevent otherwise avoidable institutionalization of SSI recipients. If ACFs close or cannot afford to take low-income SSI residents, then those individuals are likely to go to a nursing home at a higher cost to the State. More importantly, individuals who do not need skilled nursing services should without question be able to access services in less-restrictive settings.

For these reasons, I urge you to support an increase in the rate for Supplemental Security Income in the 2020-21 Executive Budget.

Sincerely,

[NAME AND SIGNATURE]