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C. DAVID PEDRI, ESQ.
County Manager

SHARON LAWRENCE
Clerk of County Council

COUNTY of LUZERNE
P E N N S Y L V A N I A
E S T A B L I S H E D 1 7 8 6

October 29, 2019

Governor Tom Wolf
508 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

We, the undersigned members of Luzerne County Council, strongly urge you to reconsider the closing of the Polk State Center in Venango County and the White Haven State Center in Luzerne County.

The closing of these centers will have a detrimental effect on the residents of the centers as well as their families. Many of these individuals require 24/7 attention and will suffer a drop in the level of care upon closure. Many of those affected by the planned closures have spoken out vehemently at public hearings. Our Council has taken note of their pleadings and respects their message.

On October 29, 2019, our Council passed a Resolution *supporting* Senate Bill 906, a bill introduced by Senator John Yudichak and House Bill 1918, a bill introduced by Rep. Gerald Mullery, enacting a moratorium on the closing of both state centers until Pennsylvania is better prepared to respond to the impending fallout. We believe SB906 and HB1918 is a step in the right direction for all stakeholders to ensure a non-unilateral thoroughly-discussed plan for the state centers' future.

On behalf of the residents, families, caregivers, and employees of the White Haven State Center, the citizens of Luzerne County, and all those affected by the closure of both state centers, we thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

The Luzerne County Council
(Signature Page Attached)

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cc: Teresa D. Miller, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Senator John T. Yudichak
Senator John P. Blake
Senator John R. Gordner
Senator Lisa Baker
Representative Tarah Toohil
Representative Aaron D. Kaufer
Representative Karen Boback
Representative Gerald J. Mullery
Representative Mike Carroll
Representative Eddie Day Pashinski

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COUNTY of LUZERNE
P E N N S Y L V A N I A
ESTABLISHED 1786

Signed this 29th day of October 2019 by the Luzerne County Council:

Tim McGinley, Chair

Jane Walsh Waitkus, Vice-Chair

Patrick M. Bilbow

Harry Haas

Linda McClosky Houck

Rick Morelli

Chris Perry

Sheila Saidman, Esq.

Robert Schnee

Stephen A. Urban

Matthew Vough

**RESOLUTION R-2019-117
LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL**

*A Resolution of the Luzerne County Council in Support
of Senate Bill 906 of 2019 and House Bill 1918 of 2019*

WHEREAS, Senator John Yudichak has proposed Senate Bill 906 of 2019, providing, in part, for a State center closure moratorium; and

WHEREAS, State Representative Gerald Mullery has proposed House Bill 1918 of 2019, providing, in part, for a State center closure moratorium; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 906 and House Bill 1918 propose a moratorium on the closing of White Haven and Polk State Centers until Pennsylvania is better prepared to respond to the impending fallout from the closures; and

WHEREAS, the White Haven Center currently houses 111 men and women with intellectual disabilities and provides these individuals with 24-hour supported living, medical care, and developmental activities; and

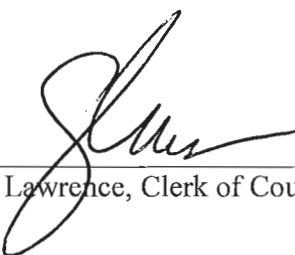
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Luzerne County Council does hereby oppose the closing of the White Haven Center and voices its strong support of Senate Bill 906 and House Bill 1918.

This Resolution shall become effective six days after adoption.

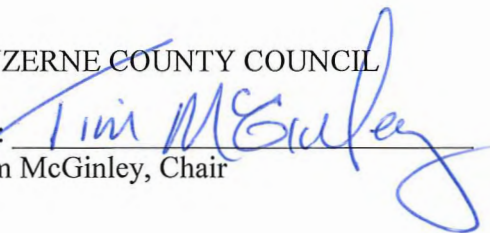
ADOPTED at a meeting of the Luzerne County Council held on this 29th day of October, 2019.

ROLL CALL VOTE (10-0)

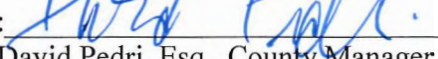
YES: Bilbow, Haas, Houck, McGinley, Morelli, Perry, Saidman, Schnee, Vough and Waitkus

Attest: 
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

By: 
Tim McGinley, Chair

LUZERNE COUNTY MANAGER

By: 
C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager