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Senate of Pennsylvania
April 22, 2020

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The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
225 Main Capitol
The Pennsylvania State Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

After reviewing the numbers reported by the Department of Health, it is clearly evident that nursing homes and extended care facilities in Pennsylvania and across the country have been the group hit hardest by COVID-19.

According to the data, more than half of Pennsylvania's COVID-19 deaths involve nursing homes or extended care facilities. That is somewhat surprising considering that these facilities have been closed to visitors since the beginning of the stay at home order.

As such, that raises a question as to whether transmission of the virus involves employees. Therefore, I strongly recommend that the Department require weekly testing of all employees who work in nursing homes and extended care facilities.

During this pandemic, it has been said over and over again that those age 65 and over are the most vulnerable population for COVID-19. We need to ensure that extra steps are taken to adequately protect these people who are essentially locked in to these homes.

I would be happy to assist in implementing this much needed policy change. The people in our nursing homes are men and women who played significant roles in raising families and building our great state and nation. We cannot forget about them now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Laughlin".

Dan Laughlin
State Senator
49th Senatorial District

CC: Secretary Rachel Levine
Secretary Robert Torres