April 17, 2020

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health
628 N. 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Secretary Phillips:

As you know, Congress enacted the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, HR 6201, which authorizes expanded paid sick and family leave for covered employees during the COVID-19 emergency. The act designates certain employees as “health care providers” or “emergency responders” and further allows the governor of a state to designate certain workers as “health care providers” or “emergency responders.”

For the sole purpose of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, any employee of any provider supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, older adults, or individuals with mental health needs, including substance use, funded through any state or federal program, Medicaid Home and Community Based Services, and/or provided in Intermediate Care Facilities (CRF/DD, CRMNF, or ICF/DD) who are providing care and support essential to activities of daily living and independence to a vulnerable population of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, older adults, or individuals with mental health needs, including substance abuse, is hereby designated as a “health care provider” vital to Louisiana’s response to COVID-19.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this designation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Bel Edwards
Governor