[DATE]

[SAMPLE ADDRESS BLOCK]

The Honorable Ryan P. Aument

Senate Box 203036

9 East Wing

Harrisburg, PA 17120

**RE: County Request for Appropriate Funding to Support the Crumbling Mental Health System**

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

We, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Commissioners, are asking for you to support increased and sustainable funding for community-based mental health services to address the growing mental health crisis in Pennsylvania. We recently passed a resolution in support of appropriate funding for the crumbling mental health system and have included it in this letter for your review.

As you know, counties, as the providers of community-based mental health services, are seeing demands for mental health services in communities that far exceed state funding levels and without adequate and sustainable funding, counties may not be able to meet the mental health needs of some of our most vulnerable residents.

Since the $84 million cut to humans services funding in the 2012 budget, our commonwealth’s counties and human services providers have struggled to maintain staffing and provide adequate and timely services. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the problem has grown exponentially worse. We’ve seen an increase in suicide, issues with substance and alcohol use, and treatment for anxiety and depression.

In 2022, members of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), comprised of all 67 counties in this commonwealth, have made appropriate funding to support the crumbling mental health system our number one top priority. Based on our experiences in \_\_\_\_\_\_ County alone, we couldn’t be any more supportive of a funding request to help serve and protect our most vulnerable.

<<Include any details or local information that you are able and willing to provide to make the case for increased mental health service needs>>

An increase in funding for community-based mental health will be an investment in our mental health system, which will pay dividends for generations to come. We cannot properly address depression, anxiety, autism, and a variety of other issues without greater support from the General Assembly, the Governor and the administration going forward. We look forward to working in partnership with you and our colleagues across the state to better serve the residents of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County and all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. It is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact us via our chief clerk by phone at [phone number] or via email at [email address].

Sincerely,

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Board of Commissioners

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[NAME]

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