

Testimony of David Stefanik M.D., Chairman, Board of Directors, Cambria County
Association for the Blind and Handicapped

Good morning, and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to give testimony. My name is David Stefanik. I am a retired physician. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped (CCABH) for the past eight years. I am currently the Chairman of the Board. My son, John, is employed by the Association. John has Down Syndrome. John has worked at CCABH for 17 years. He bends metal which is fashioned into hooks and hangers. Those products are sold to solar energy and mining companies to support cables.

In March of 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic rose to a level causing our governor to mandate many requirements for businesses and citizens alike. From day one the leadership at CCABH put into practice the guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The mitigation efforts were strictly adhered to. These actions included:

- Time off from work as per the governor's mandates along with return to work when appropriate. Special needs workers were given great latitude.
- The work place was physically restructured to limit close contact. Appropriate distancing became the order of the day.
- Work schedules were devised which support limited contact.
- Masks are mandatory, and the policy is enforced by floor supervisors who are proactive regarding this.
- Handwashing is encouraged.
- All personnel entering the work place are questioned regarding whether or not they feel sick or have been in contact with someone who is. Temperatures are taken. This is an extremely useful measure.
- Distancing is maintained in the lunchroom. Workers do not sit facing each other.
- The work place is sanitized with virucidal chemicals on a routine basis.
- The HVAC systems have been adjusted to optimize air flow.
- Meetings are held via Zoom, and potentially risky travel by the sales force was curtailed.
- CCABH facilitated Covid vaccinations for employees who chose to be vaccinated. CCABH assisted disabled employees with scheduling and paperwork completion as well as providing transportation when needed from both divisions. CCABH staff transported employees to an offsite clinic hosted by the Office of Developmental Programs in April 2021 in Ebensburg, PA.

The Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped employs 374 people. From March 2020 - present, nineteen employees among the active workforce have been diagnosed with Covid-19 which represents 5% of the active workforce.

The rate of Covid-19 in Cambria County is around 10.5%. The bottom line is that a CCABH employee is less likely to come down with Covid-19 than the population at large.

For this, I commend the leadership at CCABH and especially the supervisory workers who are tasked with carrying out the mitigation efforts on the production line.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

David Stefanik M.D.

Chairman, Board of Directors

Cambria County Association for the Blind
and Handicapped.

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