



December 3, 2009

Dear Ms Searle, Dear Dr Conroy:

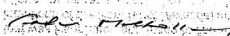
The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to express its support for the creation of a memorial to honor, commemorate, remember and interpret the stories of the people with disabilities across the nation who have struggled for freedom and self-determination. It is fitting that these stories be told in the context of Pennhurst, where that struggle found its most important victory. Pennhurst embodies warnings, in bricks and mortar, about our treatment of people we all too easily in the past have classed as "the other." Equally important, Pennhurst testifies to the true power of the human spirit to endure; to overcome, and to grow.

The Council has a long history of support for deinstitutionalization and in joining the fight against the diminution and devaluation of our citizens with disabilities. Bringing this struggle to the attention of the public, memorializing the sad victory that was Pennhurst, and trying to find a way to never forget, are all laudable intentions of the Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance. We applaud its efforts and its recruitment of so many significant figures and bodies in support of its aims.

We fully support your vision of a community of conscience for Pennhurst and look forward to furthering its creation. As a "place of inclusion, designed to elicit reflection and growth toward a better future," the PMPA's vision for Pennhurst offers a unique resource to the nation that time will prove indispensable. Feel free to use this endorsement to further your efforts.

Yours sincerely,


Jeffrey Parker
Chairperson


Graham Mulholland
Executive Director