

PATRICK J. HARKINS, MEMBER
1ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

LABOR, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health
625 Forster Street, 8th Floor West
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Levine:

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am writing to express my deepest concerns about the health and safety of residents and staff members at the Twinbrook Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Erie.

Those concerns are based on calls I have received from distraught staff and family members of Twinbrook residents, who have expressed alarm over deteriorating conditions and the failure of management to address those conditions. Their complaints have cited dire shortfalls in staffing – including nursing personnel – and essential supplies, such as medication, towels and other items necessary for proper care and treatment of residents.

Without the necessary personnel and supplies, it is impossible for staff to properly care for and treat residents in a sanitary environment while also protecting their own safety.

In light of these risks, I am requesting that the Pennsylvania Department of Health take immediate action to investigate the reported deficiencies at Twinbrook, identify the cause(s), and order the owner to take corrective action.

While quality of care for our most vulnerable residents is always a top priority, the presence of COVID-19 in our community intensifies the need for swift action as we work to protect the lives of our seniors and the front-line workers who care for them.

Sincerely,

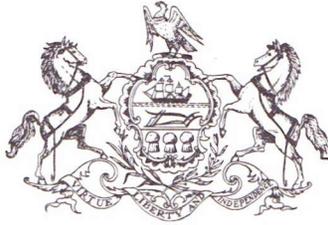
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick J. Harkins".

Patrick J. Harkins
State Representative, 1st Legislative District

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April 6, 2020

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of the Attorney General
14th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Attorney General Shapiro:

I am writing to follow up on concerns I expressed Friday regarding Twinbrook Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Erie.

As I mentioned, I am deeply concerned about the health and safety of residents and staff at Twinbrook, particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Those concerns are based on calls I have received from distraught staff and family members of Twinbrook residents, who have expressed alarm over deteriorating conditions and the failure of management to address those conditions. Their complaints have cited dire shortfalls in staffing – including nursing personnel – and essential supplies, such as medication, towels and other items necessary for proper care and treatment of residents.

Without the necessary personnel and supplies, it is impossible for staff to properly care for and treat residents in a sanitary environment while also protecting their own safety.

In light of these risks, I ask that your office open an immediate investigation into whether practices at Twinbrook constitute violations of state law warranting enforcement action.

While quality of care for our most vulnerable residents is always a top priority, the presence of COVID-19 in our community intensifies the need for swift action as we work to protect the lives of our seniors and the front-line workers who care for them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick J. Harkins".

Patrick J. Harkins
State Representative, 1st Legislative District