

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Senator Jennifer Wexton:  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Senator Wexton:

On behalf of Volunteers of America Chesapeake and the low-income Loudon County residents we assist each year, I wanted to offer congratulations on becoming the 33rd District's state senator and any help we can provide as you assume your new responsibilities.

Volunteers of America, the largest provider of homeless services in Northern Virginia, is a faith-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire self-reliance, dignity and hope through health and human services. With 31 programs across Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, Volunteers of America Chesapeake annually helps nearly 11,000 people in need, including the homeless; individuals with mental illness or intellectual disabilities; and those in need of affordable housing, recovering from substance abuse addiction or involved in community corrections. We particularly seek to assist military veterans grappling with homelessness, substance abuse or mental health challenges. Each year, we shelter 1800 homeless men and women while making permanent supportive housing opportunities available to existing clients. Our track record for productivity and efficiency has made many of our programs national models.

Within your Senate district, we operate the Loudoun Homeless Services Center, which includes a 44-bed homeless shelter and a 15-unit Transitional Housing Program providing supportive housing and case management services to families and singles in the greater Loudoun area. The Loudoun County facility also includes an emergency Cold Weather Shelter which has been at capacity over the last several days.

As your schedule permits, we would welcome an opportunity to show you these facilities personally, especially given your past work related to the state's mental health system. Meantime, please accept our best wishes – we look forward to working closely with you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Franklyn Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Franklyn Baker  
Chief of Staff and External Affairs Officer

CC: Russell K. Snyder  
President/CEO