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October 26, 2015

RI Public Utilities Commission

Attn. Luly Massaro

luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to indicate Community Care Alliance's support for the George Wiley Center's proposal for emergency regulations to allow affordable down payments for utility restoration. We know of many families whose utilities have been shut off and cannot afford the high down payments to get services restored. The proposed 10% down payment on outstanding balances as outlined in the Wiley Center proposal will allow for affordable and realistic payments for utility restoration for vulnerable households. We also urge that restoration opportunities be offered to all consumers who are currently without service due to unaffordable utility bills so that no family is without critical utility service in the winter. Per the Wiley Center's proposal, we also support the request that implementation of the emergency regulations last through December 31, 2015 to allow enough time to information households of their opportunity for affordable utility restoration.

As a Community Action Agency serving low income individuals and families, we see first-hand the difficulties that people living in poverty are experiencing with meeting their basic needs. The emergency regulations proposed by the George Wiley Center will help ensure the most vulnerable individuals and families stay warm this winter.

Sincerely,

Benedict F. Lessing, Jr.,
President/CEO