



NEW JERSEY SENATE

STEPHEN M. SWEENEY
SENATE PRESIDENT

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July 29, 2021

Acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan
Department of Education
100 Riverview Plaza
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Treasurer Muoio and Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan:

It has come to my attention that the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf has a vacant building that could be used for housing for deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals in New Jersey.

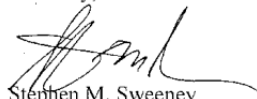
New Jersey Deaf Housing has proposed transforming Building 24, a former dormitory, to supportive housing and a community center for our deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind community. This building has been vacant for six years with no plans from the Department of Education for its use in the future. The proposal would invest almost \$5 million to renovate the building to ensure it is habitable and ready for tenants.

Providing safe and secure, long-term housing is a key pillar in the economic security and the health and well-being of our residents. I would ask you to begin the process of developing a long-term lease for Building 24 to the New Jersey Deaf Housing.

As stewards of State property and the well-being of our residents, we cannot let a worthy project such as this pass us by.

Please feel free to reach out to my office if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Stephen M. Sweeney
Senate President

c. Ms. Kathy Kady-Hopkins, Vice President, New Jersey Deaf Housing, Inc.
Hon. Phil Murphy, Governor of New Jersey

