Date

Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Capitol address

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator/Representative [lastname]

I wanted to take a few moments to express my appreciation for the support you have given to essential services for people with disabilities. As you are aware, families of people with intellectual disabilities did not receive everything they asked for in the 2017 legislative session, but many services were retained and much of the funding continues, for the time being.

With so many other interest groups, important issues and demands on your time and energy, we are so grateful that you took time out to listen to our concerns. People with disabilities and their families may not be a large group, or very outspoken, but as more of us become aware of what is happening, you can bet that greater numbers of people in our situation will be calling, emailing and showing up for visits.

So many in the public find it easy to forget the people around us who are perhaps vulnerable or challenged in some way by a disability. Thank you for remembering us and our loved ones.

Sincerely,

Name

Address with Zip code

Phone, email address

Date

Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Capitol address

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator/Representative [lastname]

Those who rely on disability services in our area are grateful for your support during the most recent legislative session. You heard our voices and remembered us when the time came for debates and difficult decisions about the use of state funds.

With the prevalence and loud voices of other minority groups, it would be quite easy to cast people with disabilities aside and ignore their pleas and those of their families. You stood with us. As a family member of someone with a disability, I know how it feels to be left out, ignored and sometimes even shamed for showing a high level of concern. No matter what others think, I know that my [son or daughter] is worth it.

With the recent session completed, I’d welcome the chance to spend a few minutes with you to share more about our situation. Thank you for your willingness to listen and stand with us. We rely so much on your support, as people’s lives are literally on the line.

Sincerely,

Name

Address with Zip code

Phone, email address

Date

Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Capitol address

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator/Representative [lastname]

Please let me express my sincere appreciation for hearing the concerns of families with individuals with disabilities. Your support is all the more crucial at this time when some are questioning the value of some of those services.

It is so important that my [son or daughter], [name], keeps the same opportunities for work and training that are now in place. You may be familiar with the Olmstead decision by Judge Donovan Frank. He said, after the decision, that one size does not fit all when it comes to work options for people with disabilities.

Knowing that we have a friend and advocate at the state legislature provides us with some comfort, but we also know that the work is never done. There are forces marshalling out there that seek to diminish services for people with disabilities and reduce the amount of resources given to service providers that underpin their wellbeing. Thank you for listening.

I look forward to connecting with you in the future, and would welcome the chance to share our family’s story with you. Knowing the real lives of real people can help shed so much light on the difficult decisions you must make. Keep pressing on. We are with you.

Sincerely,

Name

Address with Zip code

Phone, email address

Date

Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Capitol address

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator/Representative [lastname]

We simply couldn’t do it without you. People with disabilities and the families who are for them really rely on valuable services that are provided in Minnesota. These make work options available that wouldn’t otherwise be there, which, in turn, gives people the dignity and the satisfaction of living a more normal life.

Your support for the services that are important to us is not going unnoticed. Oftentimes, people with disabilities end up being a forgotten population because they are not as vocal, never block freeway traffic and simply go on working and living their lives the best they can. Thank you for taking the time to care, and to speak up on our behalf.

It’s been clear that you are listening to us and to those who are in similar situations. We have told many others about your support and hope that you will continue to represent us in the Minnesota [Senate or House].

Sincerely,

Name

Address with Zip code

Phone, email address

Date

Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Capitol address

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator/Representative [lastname]

The direct support professionals who serve our [son or daughter] with disabilities are more than deserving of a pay increase, and we appreciate your support in 2017 for the Best Life Alliance effort to increase their wages by a modest 4 percent.

As the old saying goes, “You don’t know what you’ve got, ‘til it’s gone.” We in Minnesota have a tradition of providing valuable services to people with disabilities so they might live the fullest lives possible. Part of that full life involves work options, and service providers across the state are doing all they can to increase employment options for this population. Thank you for your support.

As a legislator, it seems that you understand that decisions made at the Capitol have real impacts on real people. We are those people. People with disabilities and their families may not be as vocal as some other groups, we never block the freeways and we usually do a lot more listening than talking, but we are Minnesotans and we love our state.

In case you have not heard it lately, your work on our behalf is appreciated, and needed.

Sincerely,

Name

Address with Zip code

Phone, email address

Date

Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Capitol address

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator/Representative [lastname]

As a legislator, complaints and requests often come rolling in. Keeping track of it all must be a daunting task, in and of itself. Knowing that we are but one group out of many, I wanted to say thank you. Your concern for the plight of people with disabilities and their families is evident. Our governor may have a “make do with what you have” kind of attitude, but you have stood with us, and advocated for our families.

It’s been said that the measure of a people is determined, in part, by how they treat the most vulnerable. You and others at the legislature have taken notice of that standard and worked to uphold it. And, we are grateful.

There will be more debates and legislative challenges in the future, and we are confident that you will stand with us and hear our concerns before casting any votes that would impact people with disabilities.

I wish you the best and please know that we are watching, we are aware and we are letting others know about your actions on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Name

Address with Zip code

Phone, email address