Date

The Honorable (Rep or Sen First name) (Rep or Sen Last name)

**If Senator:** 1 Capitol Square, (Room #) | **If Representative:** 77 S High St, (Floor #)

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Honorable {Senator or Representative’s Last Name}

My name is {your name} and I am the {your position} at {your agency}. {Your agency} currently provide services to {XX} individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through {Medicaid HCBS waivers and in intermediate care facilities ICFs}. We employ {XX} staff and operate service in {list where you provide services}.

I first want to thank you for your continued commitment to Ohioans with developmental disabilities and the services that support them! As you begin the difficult task of balancing the state budget, I urge you to not sacrifice these very necessary supports. The items below are essential to the future sustainability of the developmental disability service system.

* Maintain funding for homemaker/personal care services intended to provide wage increases to direct support professionals (DSP). Our system remains grateful for the additional DSP wage support we received from the General Assembly in this this line item during the last budget. Without this investment, our system would be in further chaos during this crisis.
* Maintain funding for the intermediate care facility program
* Create funding opportunities to help providers recover costs associated with PPE, deep cleaning and forced service delivery limitations and closures
* Support additional enhanced reimbursement rates for agencies providing services throughout the pandemic

The federal government has funneled much needed funding into broad spectrum of health care providers, but none has yet to go to support services for people with developmental disabilities. COVID-19 forced my business to react swiftly and significantly to ensure we safely met the needs of people served and our staff. {Suggested: add two or three sentences about the unique obstacles your agency has faced}

Ohio’s previous investment into our direct service workforce is essential in our ability to provide services and will be absolutely necessary for {your agency}’s ability to survive the Covid-19 pandemic. The care and support of Ohioans with disabilities is our main priority, and we hope that the you will continue to be a vital partner in that mission.

Sincerely,

{Signature}

{Name}

{Title}

{Agency}