**Sample DSP Letter**

**Date:**

**Dear Assemblyperson or Senator:**

I love my job. I have always wanted to be a teacher and that is what I do every day for adults with development disabilities. I not only have an AA/BA but I am also CPR and 1st Aid trained, as well as trained in Systematic Teaching Techniques. My first year of employment, I completed over 120 hours of training on how to work with individuals with complex challenges. Each year, I commit another 60 hours of training to keep my skills current in addition to supporting my clients 30 plus hours a week at work and/or college. I have to work a second and third job just to pay the bills. Every month, I consider finding a job in another industry that will pay me based on my education and skills. But I love what I do. I am in constant conflict.

* For the first time in 25 years, the State has hired consultants to take a hard look at how much the State should support critical services for individuals with developmental disabilities. A draft of the Rate Study as mandated by ABX2-1 has been published. At this point, we need to urgently request legislative leadership to enter into a period of true collaboration with its community stakeholders and the Department of Developmental Services to avoid unintended consequences this study might cause. It is critical that all stakeholders have an opportunity to fully vet all key assumptions. We must discuss where and how these assumptions will lead to unintended, negative, and potentially disastrous consequences and then, agree on how we can work together to modify those key assumptions.  We need thorough and transparent analysis of the proposals for a new rate setting model which were just released on March 15th by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
* Additionally, while the rate study is being fully vetted, California’s lawmakers must fund the services and supports people with I/DD rely on to access their civil rights. An 8% increase will provide emergency stabilization which our community desperately needs.

Please make this a priority for this office in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe

Title and Organization