*Tell your story*– your words and experiences are the most impactful**.** If you would like, use the template below to send to your senator and representatives.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and I am a constituent in your district. Supported Living is an essential service that provides critical community-based supports to ensure people with developmental and intellectual disabilities can live independently in a community of their choice. I am concerned that inadequate funding has created a staffing crisis which puts supported living in jeopardy. As your constituent, I ask that you please ensure supported living receives increased funding in the 2019-2021 biennial budget.

The work supported living providers do is immensely important and rewarding, but at times seriously challenging and difficult; the health, safety, and general wellness of some of our most vulnerable citizens depends on this work. Some of the responsibilities providers oversee and ensure include (but are not limited to):

* administration of critical medications
* identifying health issues and assuring access to appropriate healthcare
* developing and implementing complex behavior support plans
* managing critical events/crisis driven by behavioral and mental health needs
* financial management
* meal preparation
* personal care
* household chores and maintenance
* transportation
* maintaining positive relationships with family, friends, employers, and others
* teaching independent living skills
* community engagement/activities

It is a HUGE job and our Supported Living providers are in crisis. One hundred percent (100%) of the funding for Supported Living is set by legislative appropriation – providers cannot continue to deliver effective services with a 50% turnover rate, nor can they increase capacity to serve people waiting for supports when in crisis. For supported living providers to remain strong, healthy, and functional, it is critical they receive this funding.

**Please make sure increased funding for supported living is included in the 2019-2021 biennial budget**. You can contact me at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.