**{Date}**

**{Legislator’s Name}**

**{Legislator’s Address}**

**Subject: Address Iowa’s Direct Care Workforce Crisis**

**Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: *You can find contact information for your State Senator and Representative, including email and mailing addresses, by going to:*** [***www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find***](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find)

As the parent/guardian of a child with (cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, a serious brain injury, or other intellectual or developmental disability), I write to ask that you support additional funding to adequately pay our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

I am grateful for community providers who offer community housing, day programs, transportation, job coaching, medical support, and recreation, all right here, staffed by dedicated and caring direct support professionals who treat those they serve like they are a part of their own family.

Direct Support Professionals who for local providers are a part of the fabric that hold our communities together. They help individuals with disabilities and mental illness to be their best and be a part of the community. Increasingly, however, we are losing these vital workers to less demanding jobs like fast food restaurants and big box stores, that suddenly pay as much as if not more, than these critical positions. We are now facing a crisis that will get only worse unless Iowa makes our direct care workforce a priority.

Please support the Iowa Association for Community Providers request of a 10% increase in reimbursement rates with a 75% pass through for direct care wages. There are 30,000 dedicated and caring employees who deserve a raise. Your investment will benefit all of us and help ensure that people with disabilities and mental illness receive the care they need.

Thank you for your support for my family and for families across Iowa.

**Respectfully,**

**Insert name and contact information**