Dear Governor **[Last Name],**

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the President’s full budget proposal released on June 2, 2025, which includes the alarming and misguided elimination of the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs). As a resident of [Your State] and an advocate for disability rights, I believe elected officials must publicly oppose this proposal. I hope you will consider taking a leadership role in safeguarding these essential institutions here in our state.

UCEDDs are not political programs, they are congressionally authorized, federally designated Centers that operate in every U.S. state and territory, including [Name of your state’s UCEDD]. For over 60 years, they have served individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by providing critical services, conducting applied research, and training professionals who work throughout our health, education, and social service systems. Their work spans from early childhood to adulthood, supporting independence, inclusion, and opportunity across the lifespan.

The proposed elimination of UCEDDs under the pretense of reducing “DEI” efforts is both misleading and harmful. These Centers are not partisan initiatives—they are integral to the infrastructure that helps people with disabilities thrive in their communities. Removing them would have an immediate and damaging effect on families, educators, service providers, and communities throughout our state.

It is more important than ever that our state stands with the UCEDDs and oppose eliminating federal funds that support the vital work these programs do for our state. The UCEDDs work in tandem with Developmental Disabilities Network, as well as the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs and the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs), which are also targeted in the proposal. All of these programs are critical.

Your leadership can make a meaningful difference for [Your State] families who depend on these programs. Please stand with us in defending the dignity, inclusion, and well-being of individuals with disabilities in our state.

Sincerely,
**[Your Full Name]
[Your City], [Your State]
[Optional: Contact Information]**