Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative **[Last Name],**

I am writing to you with deep concern regarding the President’s full budget proposal released on June 2, 2025, which includes the shocking and deeply misguided elimination of the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs). As a constituent and advocate for disability rights, I want to express how important it is for Members of Congress to strongly oppose this harmful proposal and to lend support to efforts in Congress to protect and fully fund the UCEDDs.

UCEDDs are not political programs. They are congressionally authorized, legally mandated Centers that exist in every U.S. state and territory. For over 60 years, UCEDDs have provided vital services to individuals with disabilities and their families, conducted evidence-based research, and trained thousands of professionals who serve our communities. Their work spans the lifespan—from early intervention services to job training, health care access, and family support. These Centers are embedded in our communities and have enjoyed robust bipartisan support precisely because they work.

The administration’s attempt to eliminate UCEDDs under the false premise of cutting “DEI” programs is not only inaccurate but dangerous. The mischaracterization of UCEDDs as part of a so-called “DEI agenda” threatens decades of progress, and undermines the infrastructure that enables people with disabilities to live full, healthy, and independent lives in their communities.

If implemented, the budget’s elimination of UCEDDs would have devastating consequences for families, providers, educators, and communities nationwide.

Your colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, supported the UCEDDs through Dear Colleague letters. I believe it is important for Members of Congress to support the disability community by publicly supporting the UCEDDs and working to ensure their full funding in the final budget. Congress must protect the other essential parts of the Developmental Disabilities Network, as well as the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Programs, funded through the bipartisan Autism CARES Act and the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs), which are also at risk.

Your leadership in Congress can make a real difference for millions of Americans with disabilities and their families. Please stand with us in defense of these critical programs.

Sincerely,  
 **[Your Full Name]**