Dear Senator **[Last Name]**,

I want to sincerely thank you for your leadership and support of the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), as shown by your signature on the recent bipartisan *Dear Colleague* letter. At a time when vital disability programs are under threat, your advocacy means so much to people with disabilities, families, and professionals across the country.

The proposal’s framing of UCEDDs as part of a so-called “DEI” agenda is dangerously misleading and wholly unfounded. As you know, UCEDDs are not political programs. They are congressionally mandated, community-embedded institutions that, for over 60 years, have advanced access, inclusion, and independence for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. Their work, spanning research, training, direct services, and systems change, is indispensable in every state and territory. Red state or blue state, these Centers support real families and communities in tangible ways.

The elimination of UCEDDs would be a devastating blow to our national disability infrastructure. It would undo decades of bipartisan progress, and harm the very people our country should be committed to supporting.

I hope you will continue to defend the UCEDDs and keep in mind the need for full funding of the broader 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.

Thank you again for standing with the disability community and using your voice in Congress to protect these essential programs.

Sincerely,  
 **[Your Full Name]**