

SAMPLE LETTERS/EMAILS*: (remember to include a photo!)

December XX, 200X

Dear EI Branch:

This is a photo of our daughter _____. _____ was born on _____, and much to our surprise she was diagnosed with Down Syndrome immediately after her delivery. _____ was enrolled in the Early Intervention Program shortly after her birth. Through this program her care has been managed by a Service Coordinator. She has been seen by an Early Interventionist once a week, a physical therapist once a week, and now a speech therapist once a month. Because of the services that _____ has received she is currently developing with only mild to moderate delays. It is our ultimate hope that with the assistance of early intervention services, a loving and encouraging family, and a caring and supportive community, _____ will become an independent adult who will contribute to society in a very meaningful way. Without these early intervention services it is our concern that _____ and thousands of children in North Carolina like her will lack the support they need to reach their full potential.

Because more children will be served in the coming year without any additional funding, we are requesting that more money be included in the budget for services such as early intervention, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and other community-based services. We trust that you will give this matter careful and thoughtful consideration for _____ and all the children of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

April XX, 200X

Dear Representative,

I would like to take a moment to introduce you to our son _____. He is _____ years old and was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy last July. He has 10 doctors, 3 therapists and an early interventionist (CBRS). He cannot hold his head up, sit un-aided, or walk. And we don't know if he ever will.

What my husband and I do know is that the Early Intervention program in Wake County has been a saving grace for our family. The Wake County CDSA has helped us in so many ways. The advice and services provided have made it so much easier for us to help our son. Therapy, on top of all of _____'s medical expenses, was getting to be a financial hardship for our family. EI has helped to alleviate some of that burden.

Please support this bill. Please support Representatives Weiss and Insko in their endeavors to help the children of North Carolina. Please do not forget our children with special needs. Please do not forget our son, _____.

Thank you,

***These are just samples to help give you ideas.
Using your own words and experiences will be the most effective.**

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Dear Representative,

I have attached a picture of my son _____. He is 3 and has cerebral palsy. He does not walk, feed himself, nor does he communicate verbally. My hopes and dreams are that some day he will do all of those things. But what if he doesn't?

We are currently on the waiting list to receive CAP MR/DD services. A proposed 2 slot increases per county is unreasonable. I understand Wake County alone has over 600 people with disabilities waiting for services. I understand we will be waiting a long time.

I cannot believe that proposing only 200 slots in this budget sits well in your conscience. Take a good look at my son. And then multiply his image by 600- make him an adult, a child, male, female, however you would see him- now see him as your own child- your son or daughter. Or your sister or brother.

Please rethink this. Find it in yourself to do the right thing and please do not ignore the needs of my child and all of the other citizens of Wake County and the state of North Carolina with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Dear Senator,

I am writing you regarding funding for children and adults with disabilities and the North Carolina State Budget. In particular, my daughter _____.

_____ is almost 2 years old and was diagnosed with _____. She can not walk. We don't know if she ever will. She is also visually impaired.

When you are working on the North Carolina State Budget. Please remember _____. The services she receives now are so important to our family life. And we know in the future she will need more help to lead a full and happy life.

Thank you for taking the time to hear just a small part of _____'s story. I am confident you will vote your conscience and help your constituents, even the tiny ones that need others to speak for them. I know you will do the right thing.

Sincerely,

PS I've attached a photo is of _____ at physical therapy.

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