

(Insert Date Here)

The Honorable, \_\_\_\_\_  
Member, United States Senate or Member: United States House of Representatives

Dear Senator or Congressman or Woman:

I (We) are very opposed to the damaging impacts that the Rules Committee are proposing to be added to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA). I (We), as parents (family, guardians, friends) and voters, strongly request that as our representative in Washington, please STOP these proposed rules from being fully implemented until you personally know for sure that my \_\_\_\_\_ (son, daughter, friend) will continue to have a choice to participate in what we know and trust are appropriate and satisfactory service options.

While we fully support competitive integrated employment as the first choice for most individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities, we are 100% certain, based on \_\_\_\_\_'s level of disability, that integrated competitive employment is not and never will be an option. Further, we believe that federal regulations that are intentionally designed to defund, restrict, or exclude other excellent choices is ill advised and should not be approved by Congress. We are specifically concerned with the unintended consequences of eliminating congregate sites, commensurate wages, quality of life experiences and the vocational services of community rehabilitation programs.

Again, as parents (or caregivers), we know first-hand that for \_\_\_\_\_, being limited to only one choice, only one kind of treatment or one kind of service will not meet his/her needs. It's difficult for us to believe that restricting access to, defunding, or completely closing community rehabilitation programs is even a consideration.

We respectfully and humbly request that you support delaying the WIOA rules for 24 months. During the delay, we request that Congress:

- Collect, evaluate, and report credible, reliable data regarding community rehabilitation programs
- Direct the Committee to amend rules as data supports.
- Ensure that WIOA rules do not dismantle progressive community rehabilitation programs without positive assurance that people like \_\_\_\_\_, who is unable to work, will not be forgotten or left behind.
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As our only hope to assure \_\_\_\_\_ that he/she will continue to have the quality of life that he/she has now, we are depending on you to help us through this crisis.

Sincerely,