

# Meeting with a Legislator

## Sample Script about Medicaid Waiver Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

### Introduction

"Hello, Senator/Delegate [Last Name]. Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with me today. My name is [Your Name], and I live in [City/Town]. I'm here as a constituent [if true] and someone who cares deeply about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

### State Your Purpose

"I wanted to talk with you about the importance of Medicaid waiver services and funding. We know that there are many competing demands on the budget and Medicaid has been cut at the federal level, but we are asking you to prioritize funding that keeps people with developmental disabilities thriving in our communities."

### Share Your Story

*This is the most important part of your comments. Speak from your heart.*

- If you are a Family Care Provider, talk about your experience with the person or people you support.
- If you are a family member of a person with waiver services, talk about what they mean to your family member and to you.
- If you are a family member of someone on the waitlist for waiver services, talk about why getting those services is so important to your family and the person needing the services.

### Information you could include:

- How the person served is engaged in the community
- Progress the person has made in skill-building, setting their own goals, overall well-being
- What would happen to this person if funding for their services was not available

### Make an Ask

"We're asking you to support funding for Medicaid waiver services in the budget. Supporting people with developmental disabilities has been a bipartisan priority for many years, and we appreciate that. Let's continue to improve our system of care so people can thrive and our communities can be stronger. [Be as specific as possible about the impact of their support]."

### Be a Resource

"If you have any questions or need more information, I'd be happy to follow up and provide more resources. We want to be your partner and be a resource to you if you have any questions or need any information. We really appreciate your time and consideration."

### Be Polite, Be Friendly

"Thank you again for meeting with me today. We know you have a lot on your plate, and we're grateful for your service. Here's my contact information if you'd like to reach out. Please do not hesitate to follow up with us if needed."