DATE

The Honorable Senator or Assembly Member

State Capitol, Room #

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California State Budget pertaining to the Department of Developmental Services Rate Study

Dear Senator or Assembly Member:

We (I) write you today on behalf of your name or Name of your agency, # of people served and # of employees.

Name appreciates the opportunity to provide public comment on the new Burns & Associates Rate Study findings. We see this moment as a generational opportunity to improve services and outcomes for Californians with developmental disabilities and we are eager to work with you to take the first step forward.

The State’s data-driven study is an impressive report and outlines in disturbing detail the $1.8 Billion funding gap that currently exists between state spending and community needs.

The good news is we think the study provides a solid foundation from which to start and we remain cautiously optimistic about the path forward. With a few simple but necessary fixes to the study recommendations, we believe we can partner with the State to immediately begin phasing in the sections of the study. These involve services that are already Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) compliant, which includes Supported Living, Independent Living, Respite and Personal Assistance services.

Name believes the time to act is now! This study presents an exciting new day for our community and we can’t miss this opportunity to improve lives, expand opportunities and deliver better outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Name