January [DATE], 2025

The Honorable [FIRST and LAST NAME]

Washington, DC

Dear [SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE and LAST NAME],

On behalf of The Arc Baltimore, we are pleased and excited to welcome you to the 119th Congress.

[PERSONALIZE HERE: Introduce yourself and your chapter. Include any past work with the Member or mutual connections, share any mutual interests, goals, or initiatives the Member may be interested in.]

The Arc Baltimore is part of The Arc, the largest national community-based organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

The Arc has nearly 600 state and local chapter networks across the country, including 11 chapters in Maryland. The Arc’s chapters are on the frontlines, ensuring that people with IDD have the support and services they need to be fully engaged in their communities.

Disability impacts us all—every family, every community, and every generation, regardless of political affiliation. For 75 years, The Arc and its chapters have worked relentlessly to fulfill our mission: ensuring that every individual and family affected by IDD in the United States can access the advocacy, information, and support they need to achieve full inclusion and participation in society. When people with disabilities can live, learn, and work to their fullest potential, we all benefit.

We are committed to fighting for the protection and strengthening of Medicaid—essential to maintaining the dignity of people with disabilities. Medicaid helps individuals and families across their lifetimes. It allows infants and toddlers to receive early intervention services, school-aged children to receive support and services and guarantees access to comprehensive health care for children and adults, adults who want to be employed and live in the community, and people who are aging. Medicaid is critically underfunded and does not currently meet the growing needs of this population. We believe the program must be enhanced and that efforts to reduce funding are harmful to people with disabilities.

We welcome the opportunity to connect with you and your staff. [INCLUDE AN ASK: Consider asking to meet with them and bring constituents with disabilities and family members.] We are also happy to connect with you as a source of information on service and support programs for people with disabilities.

We look forward to working with you to advance the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

Sincerely,

[NAME]