Template:

Hello,

Our Supportive Living community, **Insert Community Name**, is located in your district and we are asking for your help to protect it!

Insert SL Community Address

We serve [I**nsert Number of Residents]** and employ **Insert Number of Employees**. Our community offers an alternative to nursing home care for low-income seniors. Our single-occupancy apartment-style housing and support services allow residents to enjoy a lifestyle that promotes independence and upholds dignity.

I am reaching out to you to ask for your support in protecting the Supportive Living Program (SLP) and our community by keeping the Medicaid rates linked to the nursing home rates. Every resident in our SL community is also eligible to be in a nursing home. COVID-19 hit senior living communities across the nation hard, yet the numbers suggest Supportive Living Program communities have fared better than other models in Illinois. We experienced lower case counts and less fatalities because our single-occupancy design allowed us to swiftly and effectively implement mitigation measures to protect against COVID. Additionally, since supportive living rates are half of nursing home rates, **the supportive living program saves the state of Illinois over $200 million per year!!**

The supportive living program rates currently are linked at 54.3% of nursing home rates in Illinois state law.  If nursing home rates are increased, and supportive living rates stay flat, the disparity between the two rates will grow driving seniors into higher-cost, higher-acuity settings. Not only is this undesirable for our seniors, but it will cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

The Illinois supportive living program is a nationally recognized affordable model of care for seniors and people with disabilities.

**If the General Assembly votes to increase the nursing home assessment, we ask that you please maintain the Supportive Living Program’s link to nursing home rates. Protecting this link will protect the future of the Supportive Living program.**

On behalf of myself, my colleagues, and our residents, we would like to express our deep gratitude for listening to our concerns. We hope to continue to protect the most vulnerable residents of our community by offering high-quality care in the least-restrictive manner and ask for your help to do so.

We are grateful to have you as our (Representative/Senator).

Sincerely,

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