

CHILDREN'S LONG-TERM SUPPORTS LETTER SCRIPT GUIDE

MY NAME IS _____ AND I LIVE AT _____ (give complete address)

I AM THE PARENT OF _____ WHO IS _____ YEARS OLD AND WHO HAS SPECIAL NEEDS.
(Briefly explain the specific disability if you wish. Include a photograph if you like.)

I AM WRITING TO YOU ABOUT THE EXTREME NEED IN THE FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILDREN'S WAIVER PROGRAM STATEWIDE AND SPECIFICALLY IN THIS REGION. WAITING LISTS FOR THESE SUPPORTS HAVE GROWN STEADILY OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS WITH NO RELIEF. WE ARE A GENERATION OF FAMILIES WHO KEPT OUR CHILDREN AT HOME RATHER THAN PLACING THEM IN AN INSTITUTION, RESULTING IN A GREAT SAVINGS FOR THE STATE AND TAXPAYERS. BUT BEING ON A WAITING LIST FOR YEARS WITH NO PREDICTION OF WHEN SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE SENDS A CONTRADICTORY AND DISHEARTENING MESSAGE TO FAMILIES: "WE WANT YOU TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME AND NOT CONSIDER AN EXPENSIVE OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT, BUT WE WON'T PROVIDE ANY IN-HOME SUPPORT TO HELP YOU DO THAT."

I AM ONE OF THOSE FAMILIES.

RAISING A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE.....
(Tell your family story here – get as personal as you would like, but be brief.)

IN OUR CASE, WE WOULD USE (HAVE USED) FAMILY SUPPORT OR CHILDREN'S WAIVER ASSISTANCE TO.....

(Give examples here about how the extra \$3,000/year would help your family to meet your child's needs, prepare for adulthood, and relieve stress or to live a more typical life.)

THERE ARE CURRENTLY 3500 FAMILIES ON THE LONG TERM SUPPORT WAITING LIST IN WISCONSIN. THAT IS MORE THAN THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES BEING SERVED. IN NEARBY (use county figures sheet) _____ COUNTY, THERE ARE (use county figures sheet) _____ FAMILIES WAITING. (List other nearby county examples if you wish.) FAMILIES ON THE WAITING LIST OFTEN LOSE THEIR JOBS, THEIR MARRIAGES, THEIR HEALTH, AND SOMETIMES THEIR CHILDREN TO INSTITUTIONS DUE TO THE EXTREME STRESS OF DAILY LIFE.

WE ARE WRITING TO ASK YOU TO TAKE **OUR** FAMILY AND ALL FAMILIES OFF THE WAITING LIST. PLEASE FULLY FUND CHILDREN'S LONG TERM SUPPORTS.

SIGN YOUR LETTER AND INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS AND THEIR ADDRESSES AT: <http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/>
IT IS EFFECTIVE TO E-MAIL AND US MAIL YOUR LETTER.