(Your name and address)

(Date)

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher

Chair of Assembly Appropriations Committee

Capitol Office, Room 2114

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

Dear Chairwoman Gonzalez Fletcher,

**I am writing to ask you to please pass AB 279 (authored by Assemblyman Holden), when it is heard in your Appropriations Committee**.

The bill allows organizations serving children and adults with developmental disabilities in San Diego, Los Angeles, and other areas to receive adjustments to their rates to meet the minimum wage laws that have been enacted in these local communities.

(Please share your story here, whether you are a family member, service provider staff, or supporter.) I know that the people who dedicate their lives to serving this vulnerable population deserve so much more than minimum wage. But even that is now at risk because the State is not allowing adjustments to the rates it pays to service organizations to comply with local minimum wages laws that have been enacted in some areas.

This makes no sense. The State of California has made a commitment to serve its developmentally disabled residents. The State sets the rates of reimbursement it will pay to provide these services through it community partners. How can the State refuse to recognize the laws that their service providers are mandated to obey?

Without AB 279, I am afraid that residential providers, day training, and employment services will be trapped without the ability to pay their staff. Many will close – leaving people without places to live and without the support they need to live fully. This can’t be allowed to happen.

Please support AB279 and vote for its passage.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)