Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson

Chair, Assembly Committee on Human Services

1021 O Street, Suite 6120

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Assembly Bill 1568 (Wood)**

Dear Chair Dr. Jackson:

As the sponsor of AB 1568 (Wood), I write to express the support of AGENCY NAME HERE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR AGENCY HERE

The 2019 Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Rate Study provided a solid roadmap to evaluate service provider rates, but the study also included an error when it assigned rates to Independent Living Services, known as ILS. ILS service providers are skilled life coaches and instructors, teaching people with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) how to live independently in a safe, supported, and person-centered environment. As the person with I/DD learns more skills, they can lead more independent lives and reduce their reliance on other support services. But the Rate Study misclassified these ILS Direct Support Professionals, essentially reducing their compensation rates to that of lower skilled workers like personal care aides. This mistake directly contradicts the Health and Welfare Code 17 CCR § 56742, which clearly outlines the skill level required for ILS workers. As a result of this misclassification, ILS providers will be receiving a rate cut at full implementation of the rate study.

While most DDS service provider rates are being raised to reflect the Rate Study, and to reflect current provider costs more accurately, the ILS misclassification means higher skilled instructors are being left behind, receiving a fraction of the pay their skill level warrants. ILS programs across the state are already beginning to close in anticipation of this rate decrease. Implementing this flawed rate will lead to further closures of Home and Community Based Services compliant ILS providers and force consumers into more expensive levels of care or put them on waiting lists to access ILS services.

AB 1568 includes a simple solution for this problem by drawing more appropriate parallels to Bureau of Labor Statistics job codes. Specifically, and after careful evaluation, the following Wage Assumption Occupations (Bureau of Labor Statistics), and associated percentages, are a more accurate description of the complexity and scope of the ILS instructor position than those utilized in the Rate Study:

* Rehabilitation Counselor 30%
* Social and Human Service Assistant 30%
* Teachers & Instructors 40%

Additionally, AB 1568 would align the implementation of the revised ILS rate with the statutory timeline for the implementation of other revised Developmental Services rates.

This urgent issue cannot wait for a solution any longer. Providers are closing, the workforce is being lost, and individuals in need of ILS programs are at risk of being propelled into a crisis. CCLN is eager to aid in a thoughtful dialogue to save ILS programs and provide consumers the services they need.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Agency Name

Address

cc: Assembly Member Jim Wood

Members and Consultants, Assembly Committee on Human Services

Mark Melanson, CEO, CCLN