

## SAMPLE LETTER TO LEGISLATOR

Dear Senator/Representative .....

I know the future of Early Intervention Services is being discussed in the state legislature now. Understanding that resources are limited in these economic times, I appreciate the recent state budget increase for Early Intervention, but the loss in Stimulus Funds is still significant and will impact the Department of Rehabilitation Services budget.

My grandson Chase, who is two and a half years old, was diagnosed with colpocephaly, a neurological disease affecting the development of white brain matter. He has motor and speech abnormalities, and it is only through the dedicated, skillful, and loving work of the Early Intervention therapists and other specialists in (town) that this child is now able to walk and is showing limited speech emergence. His therapy sessions were recently cut back because of budgetary issues. This is alarming because, as extensive brain research has proven, the first years of any child's life are crucial to the future of the human adult's abilities. It is critical that Chase and other babies like him receive the therapies and family instructional expertise of the Early Intervention personnel. Like most grandparents, I think my little Chase is the most precious thing on this earth—and he certainly is! But rationally, and as a retired public school teacher, I also know that the problems that the Early Intervention people deal with are very high priority issues.

It is important that we consider present economic issues in the current budget, but it is dire that we consider future monetary issues. The babies who receive rehabilitation services now will not be a burden to federal and state economies in the future. You must add an additional \$2.1 million to Early Intervention in the Rehabilitation Services budget. The future of these babies depends on you!

Thank you from a very concerned and grateful grandmother!

(photo attached)