

## **Sample Advocacy Email**

Subject: Protect Day Services for Missourians with Developmental Disabilities

Dear Rep. \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for your attention to the services we provide in your district. As you know, we support individuals with developmental disabilities (DD), and we value your partnership in ensuring they continue to receive the support they need.

We've previously shared concerns about proposed cuts to DD funding in the Missouri State Budget. It has come to our attention that some misleading information is being circulated, including a claim that "payments for Day Habilitation have increased 213% since 2017."

It's important to clarify that this figure reflects an increase in the number of people accessing day programs, not a rise in reimbursement rates. Our rates have not increased by anything close to that amount. The statistic misrepresents the situation and falsely suggests providers are overfunded. In reality, more families are choosing these services because they're effective and essential.

Rather than implementing these reductions now, we strongly urge the General Assembly to maintain current funding until the Missouri Department of Mental Health and their actuarial contractor can conduct a thorough rate study later this year.

We need your continued leadership in making sure the House Budget Committee understands the true impact of these cuts. Reducing funding for DD services will cause harm. These services are crucial for individuals with disabilities, and cutting them would only shift the financial burden to other areas.

Please speak up for your district and urge your colleagues to protect these vital services. We need your voice to help us ensure a stable, dignified life for Missourians with developmental disabilities. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]