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1. Introduce yourself and your family and where you live.
  2. Briefly explain the issue or problem that concerns you.
  3. Share a personal story or experience about how the issue or problem is affecting your life.
  4. Explain what you think needs to be done to fix this issue or problem (*this is your "Ask"*).
  5. Ask if the legislator can support your issue.
  6. Thank them for their time and share contact information.

1. **Introduce yourself and your family and where you live.**

My name is [ ]. I'm from Wausau and I live in your district. I'm the parent of a teen with significant disabilities including [...]. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today so I can share some of my ideas.

2. **Briefly explain the issue or problem that concerns you.**

Since my son was born almost 15 years ago, we have struggled to find the services we've needed. It's been both a financial struggle and an emotional struggle. Finding the right information when we needed it has not been easy. Unlike the county Aging and Disability Resource Centers, that **serve adults only**, there isn't one place for parents who have younger kids with disabilities to go to get our questions answered.

3. **Share a personal story or experience about how the issue or problem is affecting your life.**

Because of my son's high care needs, I have not been able to go back to work full time. At times we lived paycheck to paycheck and things like paying for diapers, his over-the-counter medications and having someone help me at home were expenses we struggled with. I didn't know until he was older that his Medicaid card covers these items—Not until another mom told me she hired personal care workers and used Medicaid for diapers did I know about these benefits. I really wish I had known about these Medicaid benefits earlier in his life. We would have saved a lot of money!

4. **Explain what you think needs to be done to fix this issue or problem (*this is your "Ask"*).**

Families like mine could benefit from a resource center (a Disability Resource Center for Children and Families) that all families across the state could call if they have children with disabilities. There should be one statewide telephone number and someone on the other end who really knows what programs are out there for families. They could help us understand the benefits our children may be eligible for and what programs families might be able to access, so we don't feel so isolated as we navigate care and supports for our children.

5. **Ask if the legislator can support your issue.**

Can you support funding for a Disability Resource Center? This could be included in our next state budget. Advocates have estimated that \$2.9 million will be needed to create this important resource for families who have kids with special needs.

6. **Thank them for their time and share contact information.**

I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me. Can I give you my email and telephone number so you can get in touch with me? I'd be interested in following up in a few weeks. If you have questions about the Disability Resource Center, Liz Hecht from Family Voices can also give you a call.