

# UnlockGA

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Brian Kemp  
Governor of Georgia  
Georgia State Capitol  
Atlanta GA 30334

Dear Governor Kemp,

As part of the UnlockGA Coalition, we represent organizations committed to enhancing and broadening home and community-based services for individuals with developmental disabilities. We extend our gratitude for your backing the advancement of our "double dignity goal" to aid Georgians with intellectual and developmental disabilities(I/DD) and their caregivers by allocating \$79M to fully implement the I/DD rate study in the DBHDD budget for FY25.

UnlockGA operates with a collective aim to recruit and retain skilled staff for the Direct Support Professional (DSPs) roles that are critical in providing support to the I/DD community. Investing in the DSP workforce with increased wages acknowledges and elevates the indispensable nature of their roles while also aligning with the rise in the cost of living. This budget enhancement will help to facilitate the recruitment and retention of staffing that is required by DBHDD contracts and the provider agencies who offer a variety of programs and services geared to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families here in Georgia.

We stand ready to assist and bolster your efforts with the investment made to increase DSP wages and will continue to educate the General Assembly on its vital importance. Furthermore, we endorse ongoing efforts to transition people with I/DD from institutions to their own homes for an improved quality of life. Additionally, we look forward to collaborating with your administration, the General Assembly, and Commissioner Tanner to address the NOW/COMP waiver waiting list.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to partnering with you in the future to continue efforts to cultivate a more supportive environment for people with I/DD and their families here in Georgia.

Sincerely,

