The Honorable Kelly Ayotte

Governor of New Hampshire

Office of the Governor

State House, 107 North Main Street

Concord, NH 03301

Date

RE: Medicaid HCBS funding

Dear Governor Ayotte,

Thank you for including $1 billion in funding for Medicaid’s waivers in your proposed budget. Unfortunately, NH House Finance Div III trimmed $40 million from the Medicaid DD waiver. I am writing to express my deep concern over the proposed federal cuts to Medicaid which will likely harm funding for NH’s Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs. **My [relationship to the person—son, daughter, sibling, etc.], [Name],** relies on Medicaid HCBS funding to [**describe the supports they receive and how it allows them to live in the community**]. Without these essential services, my family and thousands of others across the state will face impossible choices—between continuing to work or staying home to provide care, between financial stability or personal hardship, and between dignity for my loved one or unnecessarily being stuck at home.

NH was the 1st state to support individuals with disabilities to live meaningful lives in their communities rather than in costly institutions averaging (~ $225,000/year). The proposed federal Medicaid cuts not only undermine this commitment—the cuts threaten the economic security of families like mine and weaken our state’s workforce and economy. Family caregivers already provide millions of dollars in unpaid care, offsetting costs the state would otherwise bear. If these cuts force family members to leave the workforce, the economic impact will be felt beyond our households, affecting employers, local businesses, and state revenues. Cutting Medicaid to fund tax breaks for the wealthy is unacceptable, especially when it comes at the expense of the most vulnerable Granite Staters.

I urge you to ensure that Medicaid’s HCBS funding remains strong so that NH families are not left without the support they need and the economic stability they deserve.

Please respond to the following questions:

* What is your plan to address the shortfall in federal Medicaid HCBS funding and ensure that individuals with disabilities can continue receiving the support they need to live in their home communities?
* Will you commit to relaying to the federal administration the devastating impact these cuts will have—not just on individuals with disabilities, but also on their families and New Hampshire’s economy? By what date will you contact the administration?
* Given that the proposed *floor* of $880 billion in cuts the House Energy & Commerce Committee needs to find means they will target Medicaid, this roughly translates to an 11% reduction in federal funding to NH, which means a 22% cut to HCBS provider budgets on the ground for people like my loved one, what specific actions will you take to prevent the collapse of community-based care in New Hampshire?

We cannot wait, you must let the administration know #HandsOffMedicaid. Please stand with families like mine by proactively working to protect the services that allow our loved ones to live with dignity and contribute to their communities. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,