Sample letters for U.S. Representatives

Dear Congressman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am writing because I am very concerned about a plan, embodied in H.R. 188, which would harm thousands of people with disabilities who want to work and be valued by their community. Currently, companies can get approval to pay a special minimum wage to workers with disabilities that is rigorously calculated by the work they complete. This provides encouragement for employers, who would otherwise have to pay minimum wage for less production than non-disabled workers complete, to make work options available to people with disabilities who are chronically underemployed. In many ways, it is an early and very effective reasonable accommodation that meets the very intent of the ADA. They might pay 50 percent.

My (son or daughter),\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, wants to work, just like people without disabilities, and our family is comfortable with his/her wage being calculated on the work he/she is able to complete. I know that taking away the ability of companies to use a special subminimum wage would cause many employers to stop providing work options to people with disabilities, to avoid hiring people with disabilities, people who can’t produce at the same level as non-disabled employees. Passage of H.R. 188 would lead to just that and hurt people in the name of bringing them fairness. Please vote no on this dangerously misguided proposal.

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