#### Dear Representative Carter,

My name is LaToya Smith, and I live in Valdosta, GA with my three children: Jace (G), Zion (3), and Zoe, (18 months). What I would like to share with you is how difficult the past few years have been for our family and for so many other parents with young children.

The pandemic has made the stress of raising young children even more pronounced. It feels like each day I am faced with another impossible series of decisions. I never know if I am going to have reliable child care, and I agonize over how to protect my children's health and safety. I'm simply exhausted, and I worry about the pandemic's toll on my and my children's mental health and well-being.

As there seems to be growing awareness of the importance of mental health, I hope you and other elected officials will consider how to meet the needs of both caregivers like me and our young children. Thank you for your service to Valdosta's children. LaToya Smith



# SAMPLE FINAL LETTER

## We will add the greeting.

### STATE LEGISLATORS

The body of the letter will be printed from your form responses.

You will get a chance to sign, add an additional note or drawing at the inperson event before delivering to your legislators.





To learn more, visit www.geears.org #StrollingThunderGA

Dear Representative Carter,

My name is LaToya Smith, and I live in Valdosta, GA with my three children: Jace (6), Zion (3), and Zoe (18 months). What I would like to share with you is how difficult the past few years have been for our family and for so many other parents with young children.

The pandemic has made the stress of raising young children even more pronounced. It feels like each day I am faced with another impossible series of decisions. I never know if I am going to have reliable child care, and I agonize over how to protect my children's health and safety. I'm simply exhausted, and I worry about the toll it's taken on my and my children's mental health and well-being.

As there seems to be growing awareness of the importance of mental health, I hope you and other elected officials will consider how to meet the needs of both caregivers like me and our young children.

Thank you for your service to Valdosta's children.

Sincerely,

latoya smith

P.S., Maternal depression and anxiety affects not only mothers but also their children so I appreciate your consideration of this issue!

Drawings from Zion



### Dear Senator Jones,

My name is Laila Abadi and I live in Gainesville, GA with my husband and four kids (ages 1, 4, 5 and 6).

Ten days after my son was born, I had to return to my job in the food industry. I was exhausted, in physical pain, and wanted nothing more than to bond with my new baby, but I also had bills to pay.

Access to paid family leave would have benefitted my own physical and mental health and the well-being of our whole family.

Thank you for your time, Laila Abadi



#### Dear Representative Park,

My name is Liva Ahmad and I live in Stone Mountain, GA with my two kids (Layla, age 4 and Zara, age 6 months).

I applied for CAPS 6 times before finally becoming eligible for a child care scholarship for my youngest daughter. It has made all the difference in the world. I've been able to finish my degree and search for a job after graduation while knowing my child is being loved and cared for.

Please help more families like mine access CAPS. Being able to access affordable child care allows parents to participate in the workforce.

Thanks, Liya



# SAMPLE FINAL LETTER

### CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER

We will add the greeting.

The body of the letter will be printed from your form responses.

We will add your full name.

You can choose whether your contact information is included.





To learn more, visit www.geears.org #StrollingThunderGA

#### Dear Congresswoman Smith:

My name is LaToya Smith, and I live in Valdosta, GA with my three children: Jace (6), Zion (3), and Zoe (18 months). What I would like to share with you is how difficult the past few years have been for our family and for so many other parents with young children.

The pandemic has made the stress of raising young children even more pronounced. It feels like each day I am faced with another impossible series of decisions. I never know if I am going to have reliable child care, and I agonize over how to protect my children's health and safety. I'm simply exhausted, and I worry about the toll it's taken on my and my children's mental health and well-being.

As there seems to be growing awareness of the importance of mental health, I hope you and other elected officials will consider how to meet the needs of both caregivers like me and our young children.

Thank you for your service to Valdosta's children.

Sincerely, Latoya Smith Phone: (555) 555-5555 Email: example@example.com