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President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President;

On behalf of United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), a leading organization that provides support services for the disability community and advances its social and community integration nationwide, I am reaching out to comment on your remarks at the April 27th White House ceremony honoring the 2018 Paralympic team and to express our interest in working together to expand opportunities for people with disabilities.

We are grateful that you took the time out of your busy schedule to honor the members of the team and we thank you for this commitment to young athletes. Your acknowledgement of how the event was “incredible” and “inspiring” helped bring attention to those outstanding athletes and their achievements. While it may not have been your intent, other comments that you made about the Paralympics raised some concerns, particularly how “it’s a little tough to watch too much—but I watched as much as I could.” Some individuals who have disabilities, their families, and others who work in the community felt your comments implied that people with disabilities are more deserving of our pity than our acceptance as full members of society. Given your global platform and leadership role, we viewed this event as a lost opportunity to counter longstanding negative, socially isolating views and stereotypes.

UCP is dedicated to improving society’s perceptions of people with disabilities and is committed to engaging leaders and the public when concerns arise. We believe that a “disability is a natural part of the human experience” and people with disabilities should never feel alienated or excluded. As such, we would like to express our interest in meeting with you and your staff to discuss issues of importance to the disability community, especially as they relate to greater community integration, innovative uses of health care and technology, and inspiring proactive activities such as the Paralympics.

Your leadership can help change the conversation and help people with disabilities and their families find ways to develop programs that promote inclusion, ensure that people with disabilities excel and contribute to America's future, and achieve what UCP calls "a life without limits".

Mr. President, we thank you for your consideration and look forward to meeting and establishing ongoing dialogue regarding our mutual goals.

Respectfully,



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cc: Diane Wilush- Chairperson, UCP Board of Trustees