**Digital Hill Week E-Letter to Legislator (Draft Template)**

Senator/Representative Name,

I am sorry we missed the opportunity to visit with you on our scheduled Hill Day on March 4th due to the middle Tennessee tornadoes. This week, United Ways of TN, TN Afterschool Network and Save the Children are having a digital week on the hill. My organization, NAME, is participating, as there are issues being discussed this legislative session that we feel are imperative for our community in LOCATION. [Customize/add info about your organization and community here.]

We would like to ask for your support and consideration on these priorities:

First, our community is overwhelmingly concerned about teens and substance abuse, including tobacco and vaping. We are pleased to see Senator Reeves and Representative Smith put forth legislation aimed to prevent the next generation of nicotine addicts. Raising the legal age to purchase tobacco and e-cigarette products from 18 to 21 will prevent early deaths and lessen the cost of treatment to Tennessee. We support SB 2079/HB 2114 and ask that you vote “yes” for its passage.

Second, last fall our organization partnered with others to commission a financial hardship study. This groundbreaking report reveals that more than one in three households in Tennessee struggle to meet basic needs. With more than 66 percent of families with children under six years old in the workforce, child care has emerged as a necessity our community is struggling to meet. You can link to the full report here: <https://uwtn.org/alice>. [OPTIONAL--ADD LOCAL ALICE INFO ON CHILDCARE]

The missed opportunity to spend TANF dollars on family needs has hurt our community. While we agree Tennessee needs a healthy reserve in the event of recession, we hope you will support the “Fair Share” legislation put forth by Representative Hawk and Senator Akari. This bill would maintain an appropriate reserve and direct funds by awarding grants to qualified agencies for TANF allowed expenses, such as child care, afterschool, and summer programming, as well as home visitation services.

I’ve attached our “ALICE and Child Care in Tennessee” summary for you to read more on how critical it is to address this issue for working families, as well as some background information on afterschool and the TN Afterschool Network. Your support of SB 2979/HB2509 will ensure fiscally responsible use of these funds. [For United Ways/optional for others…We are also pleased that this legislation includes funding for home visitation, and add local info here about how essential to Tennessee’s response to the opioid crisis in our state, as well as the well-being of our children and families.]

Thank you for your service and for being the voice for [community name] at the legislature. We hope we can count on you to support both the “Preventing TN Next Generation” and “Fair Share” bills this session, and I’m available at [contact info] should you have additional questions. I look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully,