Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_,

Thank you for your work during this legislative session. As you know, this is an especially critical time for Texas’ child welfare system. Caring for children who have extremely high needs because they have experienced trauma is never easy, but the challenges of the last year have made this work particularly complex.

We know that you and other elected leaders have worked through many unforeseen circumstances over the last couple of years to keep Texas’ safety net strong and resilient. We appreciate your attention to our shared priorities, in particular:

* Growing prevention services to keep families together;
* Investing in community-driven, high quality foster care;
* Strengthening behavioral and mental health services for youth and their parents; and
* Building high-quality child welfare services capacity to ensure these needs can be met.

Community nonprofits across the state deliver services on behalf of the State’s child welfare system and they are working hard every day to meet the needs of at-risk children and families. This interim, I know we will continue to work together to provide the best possible care for this important population of young Texans. In order to get a more direct and illustrative view of the type of work we are doing to serve Texas children and families, I invite you and your staff to see this work first-hand. We would love to invite you to visit your community based child welfare provider…

Please know that I am a resource to you now and in the future, so do not hesitate to call on me with any questions. We appreciate your partnership and leadership for our community and the state.