**Draft email for Angela to send on Tuesday, May 4th,**

**to potential funders re Easterseals Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on People with Disabilities**

Good morning!

Today, the *Easterseals Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on People with Disabilities* was released.

We wanted you to be among the first to receive the [*Study*](https://www.easterseals.com/shared-components/document-library/media-room/easterseals-study-on-the-impact-of-covid-full.pdf), as well as its [*Executive Summary and Key Findings*](https://www.easterseals.com/shared-components/document-library/media-room/easterseals-study-on-the-impact-of-covid-summary.pdf)*,* given your leadership in responding to the crisis, and your commitment to ensuring that, as our nation begins to recover from it, a more strategic and thoughtful approach is developed so that recovery equity is provided to all Americans.

People with disabilities were already at a disadvantage before COVID-19. And while the pandemic was difficult for most Americans, for the 61 million people with disabilities, including people with disabilities of color, the crisis had a disproportionately greater impact. For most in the disability community, the barriers to recovery are more complex and, if not properly addressed, will have immediate and long-term consequences on their quality of life and wellbeing, not to mention a negative impact on society at large.

The Study points to shocking disparities among people with disabilities, including those of color, in their access to equitable, high-quality healthcare, educational and employment opportunities, as well as technology solutions so they can fully participate in their communities.

Easterseals, through its national Network of 67 Affiliates in 48 states, has delivered outcomes-based services and powerful advocacy for more than 100 years to children and adults with disabilities, including veterans and seniors, as well as to their families, caregivers, and communities.

Our expertise and national footprint allow us to respond to the urgent and evolving needs of the one in four people with disabilities living in America today with solutions designed to modify, expand and increase our services and change the landscape for these individuals to ensure greater equity and inclusion for them in the post-pandemic world.

But we cannot do this alone. Addressing the disproportionate inequities which face the people and communities served by Easterseals will require an ecosystem of funders and policy makers, as well as government and non-profit partners.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss your vision for a more just, equitable world – and how, together, we can work together to make this vision a reality that includes children and adults with disabilities.