**Sample Testimony Template for Advocates & Organizations**

[Your Name]
[Your Title]
[Your Organization]
[Your Address]
[Your Email]

Re: Full Funding for New Jersey’s Medicaid Palliative Care Program in FY 2026 Budget

[Date]

Dear Members of the [Senate or Assembly] Budget & Appropriations Committees:

I am writing to urge you to ensure full funding for the implementation of New Jersey’s Medicaid Palliative Care Program in the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget.

As [a healthcare provider/community organization/patient advocate], I have seen firsthand how palliative care improves quality of life for individuals living with serious illness while also reducing unnecessary healthcare costs. Palliative care provides specialized medical support that helps patients manage pain, symptoms, and stress, preventing avoidable emergency department visits and hospitalizations—which drive up healthcare spending.

New Jersey has already taken the critical first step by mandating the creation of this program. However, without sufficient funding, we risk launching a weak, underutilized program that will not deliver the intended benefits. If implemented properly, this program will save the state money while ensuring that Medicaid patients receive the quality care they deserve.

I urge you to:

1. Fully fund the Medicaid Palliative Care Program and support a comprehensive implementation plan and sustainable launch.
2. Ensure adequate reimbursement rates so that providers across the state can participate and deliver high-quality care.
3. Do not limit the program due to workforce concerns—building demand and capacity must go hand in hand, and an underfunded launch will only suppress demand and undermine long-term success.

New Jersey has the opportunity to be a national leader in ensuring that people living with serious illness receive the right care at the right time. I urge you to follow through on this commitment by providing the necessary funding in the FY 2026 budget. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Organization]