**Email Template for Volunteers Attorneys (Revised 5.10.24)**

Subject Line Example: Preserve the Access to Justice Initiative

Subject Line Example: Prioritize the Access to Justice Initiative

Subject Line Example: Why the Access to Justice Initiative Matters to Me

Councilmember [CM name]:

I am reaching out to voice support for restoring funding for the Access to Justice Initiative to the FY24 level of $31.668M. [*If applicable, please add*: I am a resident of Ward [##]; and work as [Title] at [Name of Organization].

As a D.C. [resident/worker], I am proud of the Council’s historic investment in this program. I fully support the Council doing whatever it can to reverse cuts to this program and restore FY24 funding.

As a lawyer who [lives and/or works] in D.C., I want to help my neighbors and so I volunteer with the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center. As a volunteer, I use my legal background to help people who otherwise wouldn’t have access to a lawyer. **I would not be able to volunteer without the support of the Pro Bono Center’s lawyers.** The work they do to find a good case for me, train me on the law, and mentor me as I have questions throughout the case is essential. I am worried that if the drastic cuts to legal services remain in place, the Pro Bono Center will no longer be able to assist me, making it more difficult to take on pro bono cases.

Thanks in part to Access to Justice Initiative funding, I have been able to volunteer and help clients like [insert case example. Limit to 1-2 sentences].

I thank the D.C. Council for its longstanding support of the Access to Justice Initiative and hope that you will restore FY24 funding of $31.668M so that we can continue to meet the needs of our District neighbors.

Sincerely,

[Name and Address]