Dear Members of the CIRM Board,

RE: Letter of support for CLIN2 17091

I am writing to you as an aunt of a child diagnosed with SPG50, a rare and life-altering neurodegenerative disorder. Families like my sister's face an uncertain future, but we know that with the right support, there is hope. That's why I am reaching out—to ask for your partnership in advancing gene therapy research that could change the lives of children like my nephew Cade Jobsis. He works hard every day with his mom and dad to learn how to do the simplest things we all take for granted. Our family can only help him go so far, he needs treatment to stop the progression of SPG50 and that's where we hope you will step in.

Rare diseases often struggle to attract the funding necessary for treatment development, despite their devastating impact. But breakthroughs in gene therapy are offering new possibilities, and with your help, we can accelerate progress. By investing in SPG50 research, you are not just supporting one disease—you are contributing to a growing field that has the potential to transform lives across many rare conditions.

I hope that you will think of the families now and future families that are hoping for a better future for their children. Where no family must endure the heartbreak of watching their child's abilities fade away. We invite you to be part of this movement for change by supporting the SPG50 program.

Thank you for your time, your work, and your commitment to improving lives.

Kindly,
Alexis Howard
Aunt of Cade Jobsis