

Family Member Phone Script

INSTRUCTIONS

Please use the following script to guide your conversation when you connect to the leaders of the State legislature as they negotiate the final budget with the Governor. Please personalize by stating your specific relationship everywhere in the script where it states, <FAMILY MEMBER>. You may want to add your own personal story, but remember to be brief and to begin and end the conversation asking for their support of the 11% COLA.

Please call the following:

- Governor Hochul: 518-474-8390
- Assembly Speaker Heastie: 518-455-3791
- Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins: 518- 455-2585

SCRIPT

<Good morning OR Good afternoon.> My name is <NAME> and a <family member> of a person with an Intellectual and Developmental Disability living in <CITY or TOWN> in New York State.

I am calling to ask that Assembly Speaker Heastie, Senate Leader Stewart-Cousins and the Governor to come together to enact the Assembly's proposed 11% COLA for IDD providers in the final budget. The 11% COLA is critical to begin to address the IDD workforce emergency by raising the wages of the Direct Support Professionals.

The severe staff shortages and constant turnover of the Direct Support Professionals has damaged my family member's quality of life. Direct Support Professionals earn barely above minimum wage, yet they provide essential and complex care to so many people like my family member. Raising their wages is the only way agencies can begin to recruit and stabilize the IDD service system.

I know you deeply care about people with disabilities. Please help New Yorkers with IDD achieve a meaningful, fully integrated life. Support the 11% COLA for IDD providers with a commitment to continued COLA's in the future.

Thank you.