



**Date:** April 1, 2026

**To:** Members of the Georgia House of Representatives  
**Cc:** Legislative Staff, Budget & Appropriations Committees

**Re: Urgent Support for \$21 Million Funding for NOW/COMP Waivers**

Dear Members of the Georgia House,

On behalf of the Service Providers Association for Developmental Disabilities (SPADD), representing providers across Georgia who serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), we write to express our strong and urgent support for the inclusion of **\$21 million in funding for NOW/COMP waivers** in the final state budget.

Every day, our providers witness the real and human impact of Georgia's waiver waiting list. We see individuals who are ready to live, work, and thrive in their communities, but remain stuck waiting. We see families stretched to their limits, providing full-time care without the support they desperately need. We see opportunities for independence, employment, and inclusion delayed, not because of lack of readiness, but because of lack of access.

The urgency is now. The Georgia State Senate has taken a critical step by including this \$21 million investment in its budget. Now, we respectfully urge the House to agree.

This is a pivotal moment. Funding these waivers represents a **strategic, compassionate, and fiscally responsible investment** in Georgia's future.

Failing to fund these waivers means:

- Continued growth of an already extensive waiting list
- Increased strain on families and caregivers
- Lost workforce participation and economic contribution
- Greater long-term costs to the state

**Georgia's provider network stands ready to partner in strengthening and sustaining this system of care.** Providers across the state are committed to working collaboratively with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and advocacy partners, including the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, to ensure successful implementation of these additional waivers. This includes the imperative that a new rate study be done within the next upcoming years so that we can accurately reflect the true cost of care which includes a livable wage for Georgia's Direct Support Professionals (2024 National Core Indicators documents a living wage in Georgia is \$23.94). These efforts are essential to addressing workforce shortages, improving retention, and ultimately ensuring that Georgia can meet the needs of its most vulnerable citizens with quality, consistency, and dignity.

Sincerely,

DeAnna Julian – SPADD President