

NEW YORK DISABILITY ADVOCATES CALL TO ACTION

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED IN ALBANY — THE WEEK OF APRIL 27TH

As we hopefully approach the final stretch of budget negotiations, it is critical that legislators hear directly from the providers and people who will be impacted by their decisions. We are calling on provider agencies to mobilize and come to the New York State Capitol during the week of April 27th to advocate for inclusion of the **4% TII for I/DD Services (TII)** in the final enacted budget.

This is the time to make your presence felt. Legislators need to see the faces of the people they serve and hear from the workforce that makes it all possible. A short, personal visit from your team can make a lasting impression during these critical final days.

What We're Asking

We are asking each NYDA member agency to send a small delegation to the Capitol on **Monday, April 27th, Tuesday, April 28th, or Wednesday, April 29th** to meet with your State Senator and Assemblymember. Your delegation should include a mix of agency leadership, direct support professionals, and individuals receiving services — **no more than 8 people total** for ease of navigating the Capitol and scheduling meetings.

Your message is simple: the 4% TII must be included in the final budget. The workforce crisis in I/DD services is real, the costs of doing business continue to rise, and provider agencies cannot continue to absorb these increases without adequate state investment.

How to Schedule a Meeting

Contact your Senator's and Assemblymember's Albany office as soon as possible to request a brief meeting. Let the office staff know the specific day your group will be in Albany and that you would appreciate 5–10 minutes with the member to discuss the importance of the TII in the final budget. Legislative staff are generally very accommodating and will work to find time, even during busy session weeks.

If you are unsure who your legislators are, visit the New York State Legislature's website at nysenate.gov and nyassembly.gov and search by your agency's address.

How to “Pull” a Member Off the Floor

If you are unable to schedule a formal meeting in advance, or if your legislator is in session while you are at the Capitol, you can request to see them by “pulling” them off the floor. This is a common and accepted practice. Here's how:

1. Go to the entrance of either the Senate or Assembly chamber on the 3rd floor of the State Capitol.
2. Give your business card to the Sergeant at Arms and let them know which member you would like to see.
3. The Sergeant at Arms will deliver the card to the member on the floor. If the member is available, they will step out to meet with you briefly.

4. If you have a personal relationship with the member, text or call them directly to let them know when you will be at the Capitol and that you'd love to grab them off the floor for a few minutes. This is often the most effective approach.

Typical Session Schedule

Plan your visit around the following typical session times, keeping in mind that schedules are subject to change:

Day	Assembly Session	Senate Session
Monday	2:00 PM	3:00 PM
Tuesday	2:00 PM	3:00 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM	11:00 AM

**Session times are subject to change. Check with the members' office for confirmation.*

Tips for a Successful Visit

- **Keep your group to 8 people or fewer.** Smaller groups are easier to move through security and around the Capitol, and legislators are more likely to have time for a focused conversation.
- **Bring direct support professionals and people receiving services.** Personal stories are the most powerful form of advocacy. Let the people closest to the work share what the TII means for them.
- **Be brief and direct.** You may only have 5 minutes. Focus on one clear ask: include the 4% TII in the final budget.
- **Bring leave-behind materials.** The NYDA one-page fact sheet can be used to reinforce your message after you leave.
- **Follow up with a thank-you email or note** to the legislator's office after your visit.

The final budget is within reach. This is the moment to make sure the 4% TII crosses the finish line. Your presence at the Capitol sends a clear and unmistakable message: the I/DD community is watching, and we expect investment in the people who depend on these services.

If you have any questions about scheduling meetings, navigating the Capitol, or coordinating your visit, please do not hesitate to reach out to NYDA.

Thank you for standing up for the people we serve.