



New York State Legislature

December 06, 2024

Commissioner James McDonald M.D., M.P.H
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Director Blake Washington
Division of the Budget
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12210

Acting Commissioner Willow Baer
Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
44 Holland Ave
Albany, NY 12208

Dear Commissioner McDonald, Director Washington, and Acting Commissioner Baer:

We are writing regarding the final approval and distribution of the July 1, 2024, rates, as appropriated in the 2024-25 SFY Budget. As chairs of the Senate Committee on Disabilities and the Assembly Committee on People with Disabilities, we know first hand that the disbursement of such rates is critical to the nonprofit providers and the communities they serve.

The absence of approved rates compounds the challenges faced by many nonprofit providers in offering effective programs and services, and recruiting and retaining high quality personnel. Without the expedient flow of approved rates, these organizations will be forced to make adverse financial decisions, putting critical operations on the line. While we applaud the State's implementation of draft rates, it is crucial that such organizations receive final, approved rates in order to stabilize their finances and adjust accordingly, ensuring a high quality of care for individuals with disabilities under such organizations' care.

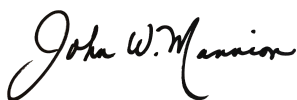
It is well established that nonprofit agencies are a critical component of care for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities; and, as such, these institutions are held to high standards, providing quality supports and services, completing frequent audits, and maintaining comprehensive and rigorous reporting protocols. These responsibilities, however, are cost-intensive. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the State to ensure that rates are approved and provided in a timely fashion. Nonprofit provider agencies need these resources in order to perform their own tasks, roles, and responsibilities in a timely manner.

Additionally, we are concerned that without final rate approval many workers in the nonprofit provider agency payroll, including direct support, frontline supervisory, and other frontline staff, will most directly feel an adverse financial impact. Delays in the release of approved rates drive such staff to find employment elsewhere, increasing turnover of highly trained, skilled staff, and, most jarringly, losing staff that care deeply for people with disabilities who rely on consistency in staff support for their quality of life.

It is our responsibility as chairs of these Standing Committees to communicate the realities faced by those in the field. We respectfully request that the State consider these adverse impacts while working to approve the July 1, 2024, rates, so that nonprofit providers can effectively care and provide for the communities that they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your continued responsiveness to this important matter. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my district office at **315.428.7632** or send me an email at **mannion@nysenate.gov**.

Sincerely,



John W. Mannion
Chair, Senate Committee on Disabilities
50th Senatorial District



Rebecca A. Seawright
Chair, Assembly Committee on People with Disabilities
Assembly District 76