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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Coalition of Disability Rights Advocates, Home Care Workers, Labor Organizations, and Legal Service Providers Urge City Leaders to Oppose Intro. 303, Warning of “Home Care Crisis”

Ahead of a possible City Council vote, disabled New Yorkers, workers, and advocates rallied at City Hall to warn proposed bill will destabilize home care system and put thousands at risk of institutionalization

(NEW YORK, NY) — A broad coalition of disability rights advocates, labor organizations, and legal service providers rallied on the steps of City Hall and sent a [letter](#) to Mayor Mamdani and the New York City Council urging them to oppose Intro. 303 ahead of a possible full Council vote in April, warning that the legislation would destabilize New York City’s home care system and put thousands of residents at risk.

The groups, representing hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers with disabilities and older adults, cautioned that the bill — intended to address labor concerns — would instead create a “home care crisis” by disrupting access to essential services. As of 2022, at least 13,000 New York City residents relied on 24-hour live-in care.

The letter states:

If passed and signed into law, Intro 303 would lead to a complete destabilization and collapse of the home care system, leaving not only those who require 24-hour live-in services in peril but all people who require care and home care workers who provide the care. Intro. 303 does propose a delay in the implementation of the 12-hour restriction with the expectation that the State will respond with appropriate funding in its Fiscal Year 2027-2028 budget — an unlikely scenario.

We encourage the Administration and the New York City Council to take this issue seriously, and to work with state government and disability and labor advocates to come to a solution that ends exploitation without kicking people out of care systems and jobs. We are open and ready for collaboration and conversation, and the last thing we would want to do is stand in the way of serious solutions to the wage theft that is ongoing. Please work with us to find a way forward instead of closing off possibilities and risking disaster with the passage of Intro. 303- 2026.

Intro. 303 seeks to eliminate 24-hour live-in home care shifts by penalizing providers for assigning shifts longer than 12 hours. While acknowledging the serious exploitation some home care workers face, advocates argue the bill fails to account for how home care is funded and authorized.

Because 24-hour care services are governed by New York State Medicaid — not the City — providers would be forced into a conflict between mandates, either complying with state requirements and facing steep City fines or following City law and risking the loss of state contracts or funding.

State Senator Gustavo Rivera said, “New York is facing a severe homecare workforce crisis and workers are raising their voices on a legitimate concern that must be addressed. While the intention of Intro 303 is meritorious, passing this bill before the state takes action would destabilize the homecare delivery system and leave workers and consumers unprotected. I urge City Council members to vote no on this bill and work with state counterparts and advocates to ensure we have a comprehensive solution to provide care to vulnerable patients and ensure homecare workers get the dignity and respect they deserve.”

The coalition emphasized that workers and care recipients should not be pitted against one another. Advocates argue Intro. 303 fails on both fronts — neither protecting workers nor preserving access to care.

Instead of passing Intro. 303, the coalition is urging City leaders to collaborate with state officials and stakeholders to pursue meaningful reforms, including proposals advanced by The Legal Aid Society.

These include:

- prohibiting retaliation against home care aides who refuse 24-hour shifts;
- ensuring workers can report all hours worked without fear of punishment;
- requiring agencies to rapidly report evidence of eligibility for split shifts to the authorizing insurance plans; and
- enforcing penalties against agencies that violate labor protections.

The groups also call for securing approximately \$460 million in state funding to ensure live-in home care workers are compensated fairly without reducing access to care.

The letter is signed by a growing coalition of organizations, including leaders in disability advocacy, labor groups, and legal services such as Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled, The Legal Aid Society, New York Association on Independent Living, District Council 37, Axis Project, Bronx Independent Living Services, Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York, Disabled In Action of Metropolitan NY, Downstate New York ADAPT, 504 Democratic Club, Harlem Independent Living Center, Independence Care System, New York DeafBlind Advocates, NY Caring Majority, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, NY StateWide Senior Action Council, One Heart, One Vision, Rainbow Connection Alliance, Inc., and Staten Island Center for Independent Living.

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