

April 13, 2026

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

19 Disability Groups Urge City Council to Reject Intro. 303 and Hold Second Hearing Before Advancing Legislation

Advocates say they've been shut out of the debate over a bill they warn would be "devastating" to disabled New Yorkers

(CITY HALL) — Nineteen disability advocacy organizations issued a [joint letter](#) today calling on the New York City Council to reject Intro. 303 and to hold a second public hearing before taking any further action on the legislation. The groups warn that, as currently written, the bill would “put our community at risk and ultimately may harm workers.”

The letter underscores broad and growing opposition to the bill among disability rights groups, labor organizations, and legal service providers — concerns that were also outlined in a March 31 coalition [letter](#).

In their latest appeal, the organizations urged Council members not only to oppose Intro. 303, but also to request that Speaker Julie Menin convene an additional hearing to ensure a more complete and inclusive public record. They emphasized that many directly impacted individuals and organizations were excluded from the Council's February 18 hearing on the bill.

The voices of disabled New Yorkers have “been lost in this debate,” the groups wrote. “You deserve to hear another side of the story, and we deserve the chance to comment on this bill in a public forum at the Council, before you vote on this devastating legislation.”

The letter details the potential human impact of the bill, warning that “at least 14,000 people could lose the 24-hour coverage they depend on” to remain safely in their homes and out of institutional settings. The groups also highlighted the economic consequences for home care workers, including family caregivers, noting that many could see significant reductions in income under the proposed changes.

In addition, the organizations raised serious concerns about the factual basis of the bill, stating that key claims made by the legislation's sponsor, Council Member Christopher Marte, are “at odds with the way Medicaid regulation works in New York State.” They urged Council members to carefully scrutinize these assertions and to fully consider the complex regulatory framework governing home care before moving forward.

Decisions of this magnitude demand transparency, accuracy, and meaningful input from the communities most affected. The disability community urges the Council to pause, listen, and ensure that no one is left behind in this process.

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