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***Statement from The Legal Aid Society and Advocates on City Council's
Amendments to Fraught Intro. 303***

***Amended Intro. 303 Remains Fundamentally Flawed, Continuing to Threaten
Home Care Access for Vulnerable New Yorkers While Failing to Deliver a
Workable Solution for Workers***

(NEW YORK, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement in response to the New York City Council's amendments to Intro. 303, which, despite acknowledging significant concerns raised by disability advocates, workers, home care providers, and legal services organizations, remains deeply problematic and fails to resolve the core structural flaws that make the bill unworkable in practice.

“While we appreciate the City Council's efforts to address concerns raised by stakeholders, the amendments to Intro. 303 do not cure the legislation's fundamental defects. This bill still leaves people with disabilities without care, creates legal conflicts with State Medicaid rules, lacks the funding necessary to keep from endangering the lives of people with disabilities, and risks destabilizing access to critical care for thousands of New Yorkers. We can and must pursue reforms that protect home care workers from exploitation without jeopardizing the health, independence, and dignity of the people who depend on these services every day.”

Advocates also responded with the below quotes:

“I am deeply disappointed with the changes made to Intro. 303. Despite the concerns raised by the disability community, the amendments still fail to address the service authorizations required to switch a 24-hour live-in case to a split-shift case. Furthermore, the bill still does not address the additional funding needed to keep people with disabilities and older New Yorkers in their homes and communities. If passed in its current form, Intro. 303 will cause many to go without much-needed care and, in some cases, force individuals into institutional settings,” said **José Hernandez Advocacy and Policy Associate with the New York Association on Independent Living**.

“Intro. 303 won't help workers and would force disabled New Yorkers who need 24-hour coverage into nursing institutions and hospitals. Council Members Hanif and Hankerson are showing real leadership by removing themselves from this fatally flawed bill, and we call on all council members to do the same,” said **Joe Rappaport, executive director of the Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled**.

Background

As amended, Intro. 303 continues to impose local mandates on a home care system that is authorized, regulated, and primarily funded through New York State Medicaid. By attempting to regulate shift structures and labor standards without corresponding state authorization, reimbursement reforms, or operational infrastructure, the legislation eliminates at least 12 home care hours per day without replacing them. The bill threatens to disrupt care for older adults and New Yorkers with disabilities who rely on continuous home care services to remain safely in their homes and communities.

The amended bill also fails to secure the substantial state funding necessary to support any meaningful transition away from the current live-in care model. Without that investment, agencies may be forced to reduce services, exit the market, or limit acceptance of high-need patients—creating instability across the home care system and increasing the likelihood that vulnerable New Yorkers will be pushed into hospitals, nursing homes, or institutional settings.

The coalition reiterated that workers' rights and access to care are mutually reinforcing priorities — not competing ones — and urged City leaders to reject approaches that fail to address both. Instead, the groups continue to call for coordinated State and City action focused on meaningful reforms, including:

- 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 authorizing insurance plans; and
- enforcing penalties against agencies that violate labor protections while securing the state funding necessary to fairly compensate workers without reducing access to care.

The coalition remains committed to advancing solutions that improve conditions for home care workers while preserving the services that allow older adults and people with disabilities to live independently in their communities.

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