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

***Statements from The Legal Aid Society and Disability Advocates on More Council Members, Including Elsie Encarnacion and Ty Hankerson, Withdrawing Their Co-Sponsorship of Intro. 303***

***Since April, Five Council Members Have Removed Themselves as Sponsors of Intro. 303***

***Intro. 303 Is Fundamentally Flawed and Threatens Home Care Access for Vulnerable New Yorkers While Failing to Provide a Workable Solution for Workers***

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society and disability advocates praised Council Members Elsie Encarnacion and Ty Hankerson for withdrawing their co-sponsorship of [Intro. 303](#) — a significant acknowledgment of the serious concerns raised by a [broad coalition](#) of disability advocates, unions, workers, home care providers, and legal services organizations about the bill’s deeply problematic and unworkable structure. This development comes after Council Members [Farah Louis](#), [Shahana Hanif](#), and [Sandy Nurse](#) withdrew their support. In total, five Council Members have removed themselves as sponsors of the bill since April.

**The Legal Aid Society stated:** “We thank Council Members Elsie Encarnacion and Ty Hankerson for recognizing the serious concerns raised by disability advocates, workers, providers, unions, and legal services organizations regarding Intro. 303. Their decision to withdraw support for the bill reflects a growing understanding that, as currently drafted, Intro. 303 could jeopardize access to essential home care services for older adults and New Yorkers with disabilities while failing to provide a workable solution for workers. We remain committed to working with City and State leaders, workers, providers, and advocates on meaningful reforms that protect home care workers from exploitation while ensuring medically vulnerable New Yorkers can continue receiving the care they rely on to remain safely in their homes and communities.”

**Joe Rappaport, Brooklyn Center for the Independence of the Disabled:** “We commend Council Members Encarnacion and Hankerson for their decision to withdraw their support for Intro. 303. Unfortunately, Intro. 303 won’t do what its sponsors have claimed and instead will hurt workers and drive disabled and older New Yorkers into nursing institutions. No one wants that. We’re ready to work with the bill’s proponents to find actual reforms that will prevent the abuse of workers and protect the New Yorkers they care for.”

“I would like to thank Council Members Encarnacion and Hankerson for taking a broader look at Intro 303 and the danger that it poses to individuals with disabilities and older New Yorkers,” said **José Hernandez, Advocacy and Policy Associate for The New York Association on Independent Living**. “Individuals with disabilities and older New Yorkers deserve to live in their homes and not be forced into nursing homes because of flawed bills like Intro 303; however, home care workers also don’t deserve to be exploited. I hope we can all come together to find a solution that addresses the concerns of the home care workers and the patients they care for.”

## **Background**

Intro. 303 seeks to address longstanding problems with New York’s 24-hour home care shift model, a system that has too often left workers underpaid and overworked. But as currently drafted, the bill fails to account for the structure of New York’s home care system, which is authorized, regulated, and largely funded through New York State Medicaid.

Without state approval, reimbursement reform, and significant new funding to support replacement care hours, Intro. 303 could destabilize care delivery, forcing agencies to reduce services or stop accepting high-need patients altogether. For older adults and New Yorkers with disabilities who rely on continuous home care, that could mean missed hours, disrupted care relationships, and increased risks of hospitalization, institutionalization, or being forced from their homes. City and State leaders must pursue coordinated, meaningful reforms that directly address worker exploitation while preserving uninterrupted access to essential care, 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.

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*The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm that exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 150 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of the people we serve and helps improve our communities.*

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