



East Bay Developmental Disabilities Legislative Coalition

ISSUE: Proposed Rate Model Delay

FAMILY and SELF-ADVOCATES For EBLC Legislative Townhall

Advocacy Cheat Sheet

1. INTRODUCE yourself.

Hi, I'm [NAME], and I am, or my family member is part of the IDD Community and are residents in your district.

2. RAISE the ISSUE.

Governor Newsom is proposing to DELAY funding to the IDD Community for a year- \$613M!

3. SHARE YOUR STORY.

In your own words, explain why this delay would be devastating for you or your family members that are service recipients.

Please feel free to use or reference the sample talking points on the back of this page:

4. ASK FOR SUPPORT. BE DIRECT!

Can we count on [Asm./Sen./Rep. NAME] support for Californians with IDD? Californians with disabilities are counting on [LEGISLATOR NAME] to support them by pushing back on Governor Newsom's proposal and maintaining the current timeline for Rate Implementation.

5. FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS to CONSIDER.

- What is the Legislator's position on this? If you don't know, can you find out?
- Will the Legislator or Staff need more information? EBLC is happy to provide more information or context.
- Invite the Staff and/or Legislator to a Site Visit or request a District Office meeting.

6. THANK YOU! Please thank them and get their contact information and offer to connect them to EBLC.

General Reminders

- Be kind and respectful when you are speaking with your legislator's office.
- Keep the discussion FOCUSED on the impact to Californians with disabilities and the workforce that serves them.
- Be honest about anything you don't know or aren't sure of – it is OK to say, "I don't know, but I can find out or get back to you."
- Please do not make statements that you are not 100% sure about, instead, please make a commitment to follow up with them with that information or connect them to EBLC.



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Additional Talking Points – Family and Self Advocates

- The deferral of DDS rate implementation is the highest single delay/deferment within Governor Newsom's State Budget Proposal- \$613m. This is essentially a CUT.
- Why is this being done on the backs of California's most vulnerable? If a State's Budget represents the values of government, why are Californians with IDD being targeted?
- The State Legislature already acted to move the deadline to July 1, 2024, understanding the urgency of need.
- Families are having a hard time finding service providers and choices for their loved ones.
- Fast food workers are to receive \$20/hr. wage floors in April 2024. Shouldn't the value of a Direct Support Professional who chooses to serve another human being be worth more than what the state currently offers?
- We are constantly having to work with a revolving door of staff supporting our loved one. When staff leaves their complaint is that they cannot support themselves and their own family on their wage or have to hold multiple jobs, despite loving their work with my loved one.