Dear [insert target legislator],

Ten years ago, New York State promised “care management for all” with the goal of improving access to services, improving care and health outcomes for 110,000 New Yorkers with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). That very promise is now in jeopardy and the State is abandoning New York’s most vulnerable population during a pandemic.

I am writing in opposition to the 39% cut to Care Coordination Organizations/Health Homes (CCO/HH’s) that was put forward by the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). This hidden cut is nowhere to be found in any document or proposed legislation, and was made as a verbal promise. The lack of transparency from OPWDD regarding these devastating cuts will have a catastrophic impact and would obliterate the current services provided to people with I/DD.

CCO/HH’s are the literal lifeline for this population. New Yorkers with I/DD will lose support in accessing critical services such as housing, medication & health treatment, and in-home round the clock care. More importantly, many do not have family or anyone to advocate on their behalf. We are leaving them without care at the worst possible time, since people with I/DD are 2-to-10x more likely to get sick, or worse from COVID-19.

We call on you and your fellow legislators to urge the State not to deplete our care coordination services and reverse the decades of work that made this service possible for individuals with I/DD.

We have already lost enough New Yorkers. We say, no more.

Sincerely,

Name