



Lakes Region Community Services

# ADVOCACY IN ACTION



How individuals and families stay informed and make a difference in the Lakes Region.

## April 22, 2025, LRCS Budget Advocacy Toolkit



*Save  
the  
Date*

New Hampshire  
Senate  
Budget Hearing

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

at 1:00 p.m.  
NH State House  
107 N Main St, Concord, NH 03301  
Email [carrie.duran@lracs.org](mailto:carrie.duran@lracs.org) for more info!



Senate Budget Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th at 1:00 p.m.

We need you to attend and be a voice for fully funding developmental disability services. **WEAR PINK!**

Please email Legislative Liaison, Carrie Duran at [carrie.duran@lracs.org](mailto:carrie.duran@lracs.org) to confirm your attendance. State House parking information is below.

### ADVOCACY IN ACTION!



LRCS CEO Rebecca Tolman featured in the New Hampshire Bulletin.

"People Can't Wait: Supporting Adults with Disabilities is a moral and fiscal priority."

Read the article here:  
<https://newhampshirebulletin.com/2025/04/18/people-cant-wait-supporting-adults-with-disabilities-is-a-moral-and-fiscal-priority/>

**LRCS Family Support Council is hosting a Testimony Writing Workshop TOMORROW!**

Join the LRCS Family Support Council on Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at our Laconia office for a hands-on workshop on writing your testimony for the Senate Budget Hearing on May 6th. Attendees will be provided with tips and tricks on writing and presenting testimony and will be supported by Legislative Liaison Carrie Duran and members of the Family Support Council. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to learn more about the council and advocacy! See you there!



RSVP to [abigail.barton@lracs.org](mailto:abigail.barton@lracs.org)

## Attend a Zoom Budget Hearing Prep Workshop

Attend a virtual Budget Hearing Prep Workshop with our Legislative Liaison, Carrie Duran. Learn how to write your testimony, submit it online and what to expect when you attend the hearing in person. **The workshops are offered on:**

Friday, April 25th at 12 p.m.

Saturday, April 26th at 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 4th at 12:00 p.m.

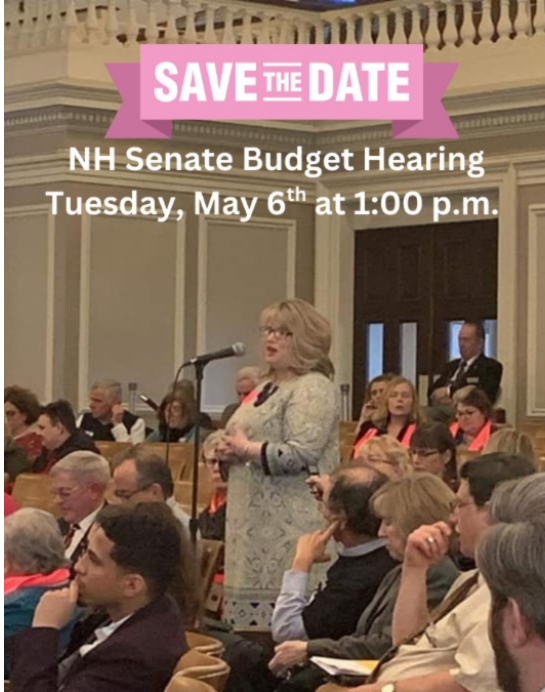
Monday, May 5th at 6:00 p.m.

**Workshops are open to families, individuals, staff, employees and the community.** Email Carrie at [carrie.duran@lracs.org](mailto:carrie.duran@lracs.org) if you have any questions.

To Join the Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 944 2585 2396

Passcode: 099918



**SAVE THE DATE**

**NH Senate Budget Hearing  
Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

*Your*  
**VOICE  
MATTERS**

Join us for a  
**Budget Hearing  
Prep Workshop on Zoom!**

Join the workshop most convenient for you!

- **Friday**, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **Saturday**, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- **Sunday**, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **Monday**, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Join the Meeting:

Meeting ID: 944 2585 2396 Passcode: 099918

Facilitated by LRCS Legislative Liaison, Carrie Duran.  
Email [carrie.duran@lracs.org](mailto:carrie.duran@lracs.org) for more information.



**TAKE  
ACTION**

Email the Senate  
Finance Committee  
directly with your  
budget concerns!

Email [carrie.duran@lracs.org](mailto:carrie.duran@lracs.org) with questions  
on how to take action!



Want to take action today? Use the link below to share your budget concerns with the Senate Finance Committee.

Click Here to [Email the Senate Finance Committee Today!](#) Then use the "email the entire committee button".

Email [carrie.duran@lracs.org](mailto:carrie.duran@lracs.org) with any questions.

**Sample Budget Testimony Template**

[Date]  
NH Senate Finance Committee  
New Hampshire State House, Room 103  
107 N. Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: Please FULLY FUND THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET for FY2026-2027 and FUND THE BDS PRIORITIZED NEEDS LIST.**

Dear Chairman Gray and Members of the NH Senate Finance Committee;

**Opening:** My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_, NH with my \_\_\_\_\_. I urge you to fully fund Governor Ayotte's proposed state budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and fund the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) prioritized needs list. This includes eliminating both the 3% Medicaid rates cut and the \$62.8 million defunding of the developmental disabilities waitlists as proposed in the NH House budget. Furthermore, the \$10m prioritized needs request from BDS for room and board support will help stabilize residential housing for people with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders.

I would also like to request support for specific funding [*Family Centered Early Supports and Services, Recreational Funding*]. [*I, My family member, My friend*] would be negatively affected without funding these services.

**Your Story: Here's where you tell your story in two or three paragraphs. How have these services benefited [you, your family, your friend]? How would losing these services negatively affect [you, your family, your friend]?**

**Closing:** Thank you, Chairman Gray and members of the NH Senate Finance Committee, for this opportunity to testify in support of fully funding Governor Ayotte's proposed state budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and the BDS prioritized needs list. I would like to state again special consideration for funding [*Family Centered Early Supports and Services, Recreational Funding*]. If you have any questions or require more information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Name  
Town  
[optional: Email Address]  
[optional: Phone Number]

[Click Here to Download in Word Format](#)

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!**

**SPEAK UP AND SHARE YOUR VOICE!**

**Important Information if attending in person**

**DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Tuesday, May 6th at 1:00 p.m. at the NH State House

Representatives Hall, 2nd Floor, 107 N Main St, Concord, NH 03301

**OPTIONAL ATTIRE:  
WEAR PINK!**

**PARKING INFORMATION:**

**<https://www.concordnh.gov/844/Downtown-Parking>**

- Bring quarters, a credit card or PaybyPhone app
- Mobility/wheelchair entrance to the side of the main steps, accessed from Capitol St. You will enter on the basement/lower level of the State House and will need to take the elevator to the Second Floor.

**Can I use a Disabled Permit at meters or in timed parking zones?**

- Currently the disabled permit/placard allows you to park without paying. Time limits will be enforced at all public Walking Disability Parking Spaces (on-street, as well as municipal parking garages and lots) per RSA 265:74 and City Code of Ordinances 18-1-16. You may never park in a designated disabled access aisle, even with a valid disabled plate or placard.

**SIGN IN**

- When you arrive, if you are planning to speak, please sign in and then enter the Representatives Hall.
- If you need support, please contact Carrie Duran (**603.219.6777**) who will be at the State House from 12:00 p.m. until the end of the hearing.
- If the Hall is overcrowded and you do not plan to speak, there will be overflow in the Gallery (elevator to the third floor).

**REFRESHMENTS**

- No food or drinks are allowed in Representatives Hall with the exception of water.

**ACCOMODATIONS**

Please reach out to Carrie Duran at [carrie.duran@lrca.org](mailto:carrie.duran@lrca.org), 603-219-6777, if you need any accommodations or additional support while at the hearing.

*Thank You  
for your advocacy!*

The logo for Lakes Region Community Services features a stylized green and yellow wave graphic to the left of the text. The text "LAKES REGION" is in a small, gold, sans-serif font. Below it, "COMMUNITY" is in a large, bold, red serif font, and "SERVICES" is in a smaller, red serif font below that.

LAKES REGION  
**COMMUNITY**  
SERVICES

*Engage. Empower. Inspire.*

Carrie is here to help and answer your questions!

[Click Here to email Carrie Duran.](#)

For further updates and past communications please go to

[LRCS Legislative Advocacy Page.](#)

Join us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Lakes Region Community Services | 719 North Main Street | Laconia, NH 03246 US

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