



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR**

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Disabilities and Employment

PURPOSE: This hearing will examine how effectively New York’s disability service, workforce development, and employer systems are supporting individuals with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining competitive, integrated employment. It will explore barriers within state programs, employer practices, and benefits structures, assess coordination across agencies, and identify policy solutions to improve workforce participation and economic mobility for New Yorkers with disabilities.

**Wednesday
May 6, 2026
10:00 AM
Hearing Room A
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248**

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

This hearing will examine how effectively New York State’s disability service and workforce systems support individuals with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining competitive, integrated employment. Despite protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the integration mandate established in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, significant gaps persist, including:

- Fragmented service delivery across agencies such as the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCESS-VR), and the New York State Department of Labor;
- Limited pathways from programs to employment; and
- Structural barriers such as benefits cliffs, the subminimum wage, and inconsistent employer engagement.

The hearing will bring together state agencies, providers, advocates, and employers to assess current policies and identify opportunities to improve coordination, expand access to meaningful employment, and strengthen economic mobility for New Yorkers with disabilities.

Persons wishing to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes duration. Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Committees, in accordance with their policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), have made their facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to State Legislature facilities and activities.

Patricia Fahy
Chair, Committee on Disabilities

Jessica Ramos
Chair, Committee on Labor

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing on Employment and Disabilities are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible: by Friday, May 1 for those seeking to testify in person, and by Monday, May 4 for those seeking to submit written testimony. Please return this form by mail, email, or fax to both:

Jake Egloff
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Oral Testimony by Invitation Only

- I plan to attend the public hearing on Disabilities and Employment to be conducted by the Committees on May 6.
- I plan to make a public statement at the above hearing. My statement will be limited to 10 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information.

Please specify the type of assistance required:

NAME:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

TELEPHONE / FAX: