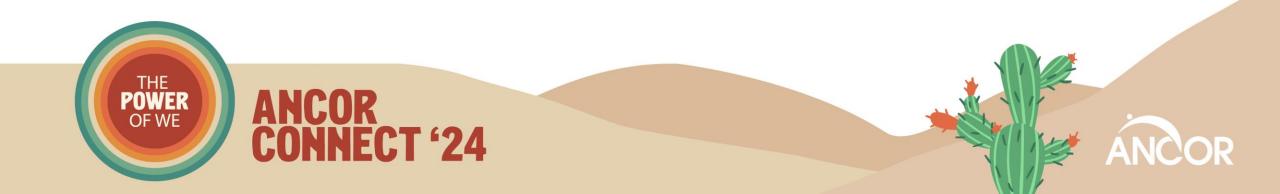


# **Effecting Change Through Public Policy**

### Speakers

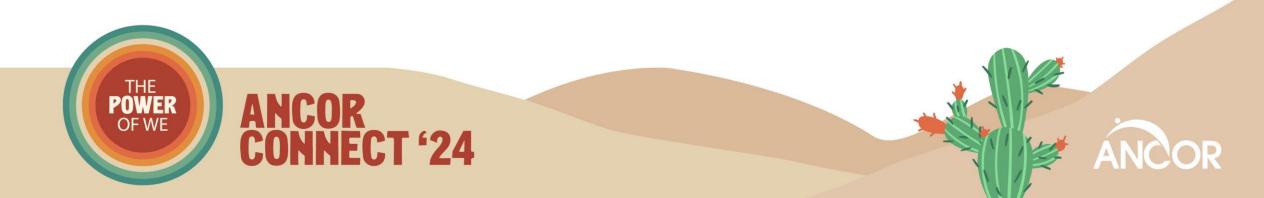
Christine Mattson, Associate Executive Director
Constructive Partnerships Unlimited/HV Division

Penny Pagliaro, Executive Director
Constructive Partnerships Unlimited/HV Division



## **Program Agenda**

- Accessibility and Inclusion Legislation
- NYS Traveling With Dignity Act
- A Roadmap to Effecting Change
- Q & A



## **Americans With Disabilities Act**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in several areas, including employment, *transportation*, *public* accommodations, communications and access to state and local government programs and services. US Dept of Labor, 1990



## **ADA Achievements**

- •Education access to public school system
- •Employment Disability is a protected class, reasonable accommodations
- •Infrastructure ramps to access public spaces and buildings, elevators, curb cut-outs

 Accessibility for travel – wheelchair lifts, hand controls on rental cars, handicap bathrooms with grab bars





## **Statistics**

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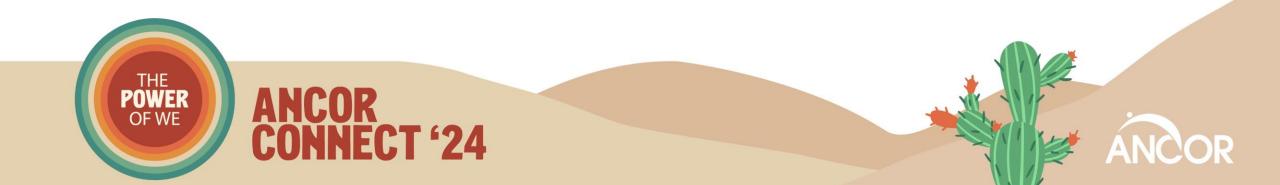
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- 25.5 million Americans (about 8.5 percent of US population age 5 and older) have travel-limiting disabilities
- More than 15% of those with travel-limiting disabilities identify as wheelchair users
- 3.6 million Americans with travel-limiting disabilities do not leave their homes because they are disabled



## The Issue:

## Is there a Bathroom for me?



# NYS Traveling With Dignity Act

The "Traveling with Dignity Act" (S.7697) will provide for *adult* changing facilities to be placed within an enclosed restroom or other similar private facility to be made available for persons with disabilities, veterans, seniors or other individuals in public rest areas, museums, libraries and *government-owned facilities* throughout New York state.





# A Roadmap to Effecting Change

- Identify the Issue and Give it a Voice
- Identify Champions for the Cause
- Broaden the Scope
- Bring Awareness to the Issue
- Pound the Pavement

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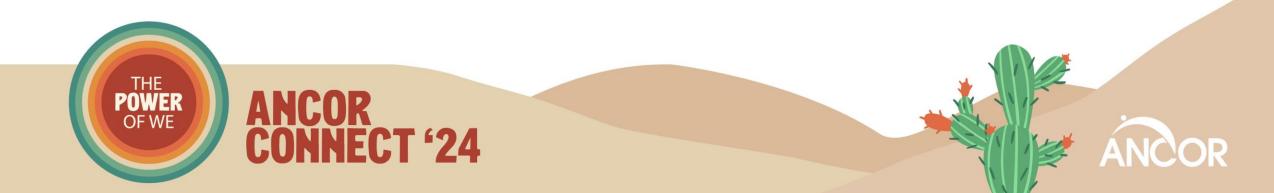
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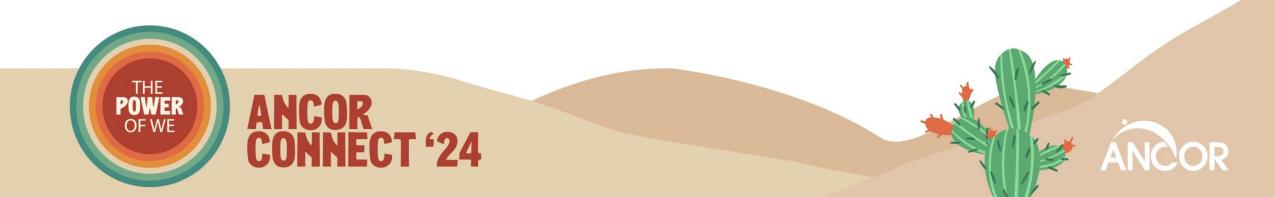
• Replicate the Process and Make a Difference

## Identify the Issue and Give it a Voice





## In Their Own Words

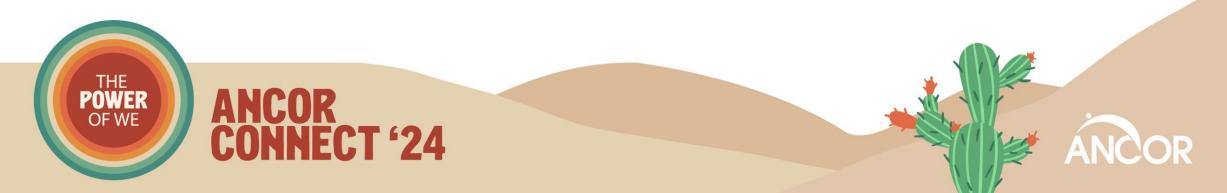




## **Identify Champions for the Cause**

Senator Pete Harckham sponsored and wrote the Bill





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### Identify Champions for the Cause Assemblyman Chris Burdick sponsored the bill



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### #ANCORConnect24 Identify Champions for the Cause

Senator Rolison

Assemblyman Slater

Assemblywoman







HON. DANA LEVENBERG PUTNAM & WESTCHESTER COUNTIES





# **Identify Champions for the Cause**

Endorsed by Senator Mannion – Chairperson of the Disabilities Committee



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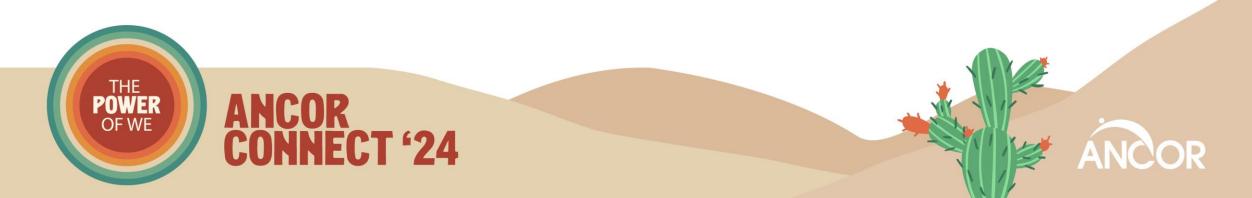
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Thank you, Senator John Mannion, FOR SUPPORTING THE **I/DD COMMUNITY** 

# **Broaden the Scope**

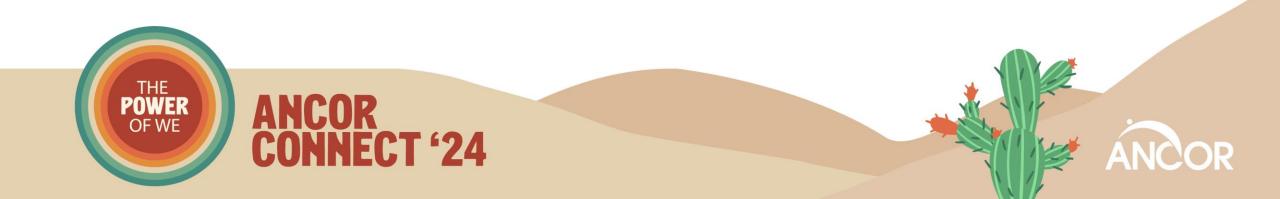
Reach out to other groups, advocates, and organizations who have similar interests:

- Veterans
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Changing Spaces
- Others with Mobility Issues



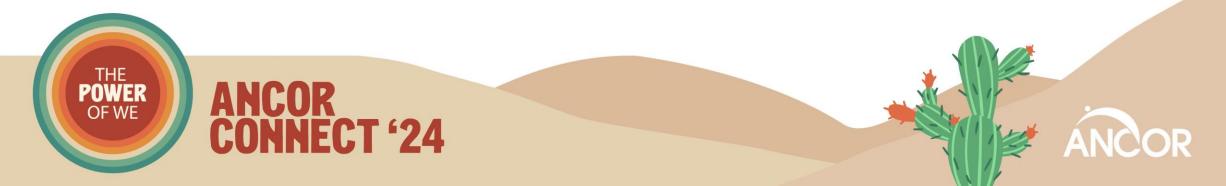
## **Bring Awareness to the Issue**

- Social Media
- Press Conferences
- Meeting with other provider organizations
- Media Attention

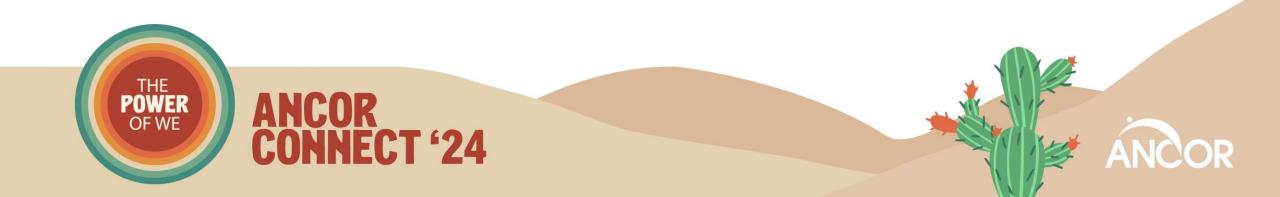


## **Pound the Pavement**

- Identify what committees the legislation will go through
- Gain an audience with committee members
- Locate other constituents of committee members and enlist their help
- Ask partnering organizations to assist with advocacy
- Ask trade organizations for assistance in getting the word out

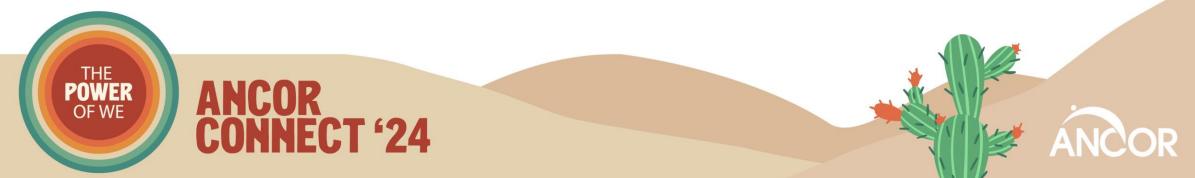


## Replicate the Process and Make a Difference

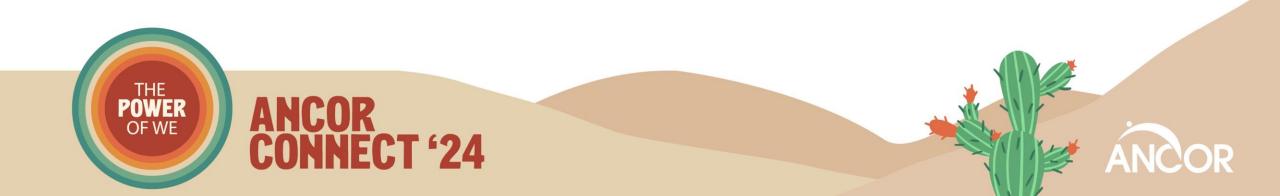


# When we make the world accessible We All Win





# Questions



## **Constructive Partnerships Unlimited** *cpunlimited.org*

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- Penny Pagliaro, Executive Director phone: (929)403-6076 email: <u>ppagliaro@cpofnys.org</u>

