

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GANY STATEMENT ON THE STATE BUDGET

Pass the Good Guardianship Act Now

ALBANY, NY – For the third consecutive year, the New York State budget has fallen far short of what is needed to address the growing guardianship crisis facing our neighbors across the state. While we are grateful for the continued \$1 million allocation to the [Statewide Initiative of Nonprofit Guardians \(SING\)](#), it is not enough, and we are deeply disappointed that state leaders have once again declined to act on the scale this crisis demands.

In New York, judges are required to appoint guardians for people who have no family member or friend willing or able to serve and no means to pay for private services, only to find there is no one to appoint. Local Departments of Social Services, the guardians of last resort under the law, are overwhelmed and under-resourced. Existing nonprofit providers are at capacity, and entire regions of the state, including Albany, Syracuse, and much of rural New York, have none at all.

Mission-driven nonprofit organizations are best suited to fill this gap. SING's member organizations have spent decades on the ground building the trust, partnerships, and expertise required to serve people well. Unlike private guardians, SING members are driven by a mandate to help people live and age with dignity in their homes and communities. They are available around the clock, every day of the year, because that is what the work demands. And they deliver results: a 2025 cost-benefit analysis found that a \$15 million investment in nonprofit guardians would generate \$85 million in net savings, primarily through reduced Medicaid spending.

The \$15 million needed to fully fund SING is not an abstraction. It represents the difference between a dignified life with the support one deserves and abandonment for thousands of New Yorkers who need or will soon need a guardian.

We are grateful for the steadfast leadership of Assembly Member Lavine, Senator Cleare, Assembly Member Seawright, and Senator Brouk, who have championed this issue with clarity and conviction. Their advocacy reminds us that change is possible and necessary.

The budget is not the only path forward. The Legislature must act this session by passing the NYS Good Guardianship Act (A9295B/S8654B). This legislation would formally establish SING in state law and make it possible to build capacity in communities across the state that currently have none. The bill is supported by the \$1 million investment in the State Fiscal Year 2027 Enacted Budget, and the program would expand and grow with future investment. Both chambers have already moved the bill through Aging Committees to Finance and Ways and Means Committees. Passing it now would send an unambiguous message that New York is serious about fulfilling its legal and moral obligation to the people who need guardians most.

We call on the New York State Legislature to pass the NYS Good Guardianship Act now. New Yorkers in crisis cannot wait another year.

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Guardianship Access New York (GANY) is a coalition of nonprofit guardians and allies advocating for adequate public investment in guardianship services and alternatives.