



## Kids Can't Wait Advocacy Day 2025

On February 11th, Liftoff WNY and a bus full of community leaders including parents, early childhood professionals, service providers, and medical professionals headed to Albany for Kids Can't Wait Advocacy Day. Joining with advocates from across the state, our team urged policy makers to prioritize young children with delays and disabilities.

Once in Albany, our advocates met with eleven Senator and Assemblymember offices to educate and amplify this year's priorities. Please find the 2025 New York State priorities [here](#).

In the video above, you can find testimonials from our advocates on what brought them to Albany for Advocacy Day and why they are so passionate about the Kids Can't Wait Campaign.

We are excited to share that our work on advocacy day is already seeing real time support:

**Senator Gallivan's** office submitted a budget letter supporting an additional five percent increase for Early Intervention (EI) provider rates. In addition, he signed on as a co-sponsor for the EI reform bill which asks for a study on the costs, models, and barriers to service within the current EI system.

**Senator Borrello** wrote a budget letter in support of the full agenda of the Kids Can't Wait campaign and submitted it to the Governor and Legislature for consideration.

Our teams met directly with four of the new assemblymembers (**Assemblymembers Sempolinski, Molitor, Bologna, and Chludzinski**) who all expressed interest and support for our campaign objectives.

We were also able to welcome **Senator Baskin** to office and outline the Kids Can't Wait priorities. Senator Baskin's office welcomed additional meetings with her office to identify potential opportunities for collaboration.

Looking for a way to continue supporting the KCW Campaign?

[Take Action Here](#)

## Aligned Action Report



**Increase Support for Help Me Grow New York State**

Help Me Grow New York (HMGNY) has been a lifeline for thousands of families, ensuring children receive the developmental screenings, resources, and support they need to thrive. The inclusion of HMGNY in the state budget for the past two years has impacted 21,000 families and 23,000 families.

With additional support in the NYS budget, more children, families, and communities will benefit from the services and partnership HMGNY provides.

Join us in asking state legislators to increase funding for HMGNY in the 2026 budget:

Take Action

## Onboard: Creating Pathways for Early Childhood Advocacy

On January 13, 2025, we officially launched **Onboard**, our volunteer advocacy network. In the first 60 days, **33 ambassadors** have signed on—leaders from a variety of sectors including medical professionals, philanthropists, early intervention and preschool special education experts, business owners, service providers, and more. Their shared mission? To maximize every opportunity for 0–5-year-olds in WNY to reach their full potential.

Onboard ambassadors have already started to actively engage in advocacy efforts. Ambassadors traveled to Albany with us for Kids Can't Wait Advocacy Day, spoke directly to policy makers, and used their personal and professional platforms to amplify Liftoff's work. Their leadership is already helping to shape conversations and drive meaningful change in early childhood spaces. What makes Onboard unique is its flexibility—ambassadors can participate in ways that fit their schedule, capacity, and interests while building relationships with other leaders in our community that have a shared purpose. Together, we are amplifying voices, influencing policy, and ensuring that every young child in WNY has the opportunity to thrive.

Learn more about our volunteer advocacy network [here](#).

Are you Onboard to help you children thrive? [Apply now](#).



Instagram: @Liftoff\_WNY



X (formerly Twitter): @LiftoffWNY



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