

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2025

Contact:

Ebony Freeman

ebony.freeman@njcdd.org

609.633.8280

Paul Blaustein, Chairperson
Mercedes Witowsky, Executive Director

Two New Jersey Disability Advocates Invited to Attend Joint Session Address

TRENTON, NJ—The [New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities](http://njcdd.org) (NJCDD) today announced that two developmental disability advocates from New Jersey will participate in congressional meetings and attend President Donald Trump’s address to the joint session of the U.S. Congress, which will take on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, in the Chamber of the House of Representatives in the U.S. Capitol. Self-advocate and NJCDD member Kevin Nuñez was invited to attend as a guest of [U.S. Senator Andy Kim](#) (D-NJ) and Catherine Tamburello, Co-Chair of the Statewide Regional Family Support Planning Council, was invited to attend as a guest of [Representative LaMonica McIver](#) (NJ-10).

NJCDD Executive Director Mercedes Witowsky commented, “Cathy and Kevin are tireless advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities. We are thrilled that their efforts are being recognized and confident that they will do an excellent job of representing the disability community and the Garden State.”

The proposed cuts to Medicaid funding weigh heavily on disability advocates like Nuñez and Tamburello. While in Washington, D.C., both will aim to spread the word about protecting Medicaid. “Disability is not a partisan issue, it is a life issue. I may have been born disabled but everyone else is temporarily abled. Supporting those with disabilities supports local, state, and national economies. As we grow, so does America,” shared Nuñez. “No cuts, no caps,” he emphasized.

“It doesn't matter whether you have a developmental disability or not. We all want a good and fulfilling life and all of us reach that goal in different ways. I believe very much that my son Michael's life should be self-directed by him and Medicaid is a big part of that happening,” stated Tamburello. “Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can be somewhat invisible at times, when you're talking about big government things like Medicaid. I think it's really important to look at all of the reasons why Medicaid is so necessary,” she added.

Visit www.usa.gov/elected-officials to find contact information for your elected officials. To follow Cathy and Kevin’s stories, and to find the latest news related to the fight to protect Medicaid, visit <https://njcddan.org/protect-medicaid/>.

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About the NJCDD

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) is a federally mandated organization located in but not of the NJ Department of Human Services. NJCDD works to ensure individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families, participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in all facets of life through culturally competent programs. Visit <https://njcdd.org/> for more information.