



## Phone Call & Email Scripts

These are scripts self-advocates can use while calling or emailing their Florida House of Representatives members about the FL SAND priorities. Every Florida resident is represented by a state-level Representative and Senator. Be sure to contact them both.

You can use these scripts to help you when you call a legislator's office, to leave a message on a legislator's voicemail, and/or to email them.

**Before you get started**, jot down a few notes about how the issue in the priority affects you (for example: how personal support providers help you in your daily life). Use these notes to fill in the red text in each script. Feel free to edit the script to put it in your own words or to change information that doesn't apply to you (e.g. leave out the part about being a registered voter if you are not yet registered).

**Calling during the day** is best because it gives you an opportunity to have a conversation with a legislator or aide about the issue. Calling local district offices is just as effective as calling a legislator's Capitol office. If you want to talk to someone in person, try calling both offices to see if someone answers. However, if you are not able to reach someone in person, leaving a voice message or sending a letter/postcard/email are the next best things.

**The first step is locating your legislators' contact information**. These links will lead you to their office phone numbers and contact forms where you can cut and paste an email.

- Find your State Representative here: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/sections/representatives/myrepresentative.aspx>
- Find your State Senator here: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find>

If you like post cards, you can print postcards at [www.ibudgetwaiver.com](http://www.ibudgetwaiver.com). You can take the postcard files to a local printer, like Staples or Office Depot to print on card stock, or just print them at home on regular paper, fill in your note, and mail them in an envelope.

**Good luck! Keep scrolling to see the scripts.**

## Script for “Preserve the iBudget” Priority: Increase Provider Rates

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_ and am a registered voter. Thank you for increasing funds in the 2020 Agency for Persons with Disabilities budget for medically necessary Home and Community Based Services for people with developmental disabilities. I am a person with a disability that relies on personal support workers for my daily care so I can live independently in the community. Without these services I might have to live in an institution, which is much more expensive for my family and taxpayers. I am calling to ask you to continue the funding at the same level as last year and to please include rate increases for personal support workers who provide these services. They have not had an effective wage increase in over a decade. Many people like me cannot find workers because the pay is so low. My provider helps me (say a few things here that your provider helps you do – get ready for work, get to doctor’s appointments, help you with grocery shopping, etc.)

Again, I am asking you to support people with disabilities by taking action to increase rates for personal support workers. Thank you for helping me get the support I need to contribute to my community in \_\_\_\_\_ (hometown).

Have a nice day!

## Script for “Preserve the iBudget” Priority: Reduce the Waitlist

(If you are not on the waitlist, be sure to change the script to apply to your situation. You might say that you know people on the waitlist.)

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_ and am a registered voter. Thank you for increasing funds in the 2020 Agency for Persons with Disabilities budget for medically necessary Home and Community Based Services for people with developmental disabilities. There are still more than 22-thousand people like me waiting for these services. Please consider including money in the budget to reduce the waiting list by at least 10 percent. This issue is important to me because I need these services to continue to live independently (talk about how getting on the waiver and receiving services will impact you).

Thank you and have a nice day!

## Script for Supportive Decision Making

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_ and am a registered voter. I am a person with a disability and making my own decisions, such as where I live and who provides my medical care, is important to me. I am calling to ask that you vote yes on Senate Bill 1010 or House Bill 681, the Supported Decision-Making Law. Supported Decision-Making is an alternative to guardianship that allows people with disabilities to keep their rights and make their own decisions with the support of people they trust. It is a unique tool proven successful in 12 states and D.C. as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship. It will also further the Florida Legislature's continued intent to ensure guardianship is only imposed when there is no alternative.

This issue is important to me because (say a few things here that express how this impacts you. Maybe you know someone who has lost his or her rights, or you are living currently with supported decision-making and it is working well).

Thank you and have a nice day!