

### Sample Meeting Agenda With Talking Points

- **Introductions (2 min total so introductions need to be brief)**
  - Team leader introduces themselves sharing who they are, where they are from and if they are a survivor, caregiver, patient, etc
  - Starting with any constituents in the room, the team leader calls on each team member to share who they are, where they are from and if they are a survivor, caregiver, patient, etc. Rotate survivor story from meeting to meeting.
- **Team leader or constituent introduces the issue to the lawmaker.**
  - We are here today to speak with you about two critical issues that impact millions of New Yorkers—improving access to cancer screening and removing deadly menthol tobacco from stores in New York City.
  - I'd like to ask a few of my team members to go over the basics of why these issues are important and our policy requests.
- **Ask #1 Improving Access To Paid Time off for Screenings**
  - Many New Yorkers are not getting their recommended cancer screening for reasons such as:
    - They do not have enough sick time.
    - Appointments are only available during traditional office hours, and they are not able to leave work; and/or
    - They do not have time to miss work/employment, afraid to use sick time for preventative care.
  - Like sick, vacation, or personal leave, paid time off (PTO) for cancer screenings can help employees be up to date with their recommended screenings for cancers such as breast, cervical, colorectal, and lung.
  - A specific paid time off benefit for preventative medical care like cancer screening ensures that employees do not have to choose between potentially life-saving screening and other immediate needs like a routine doctor's visit or taking care of a sick child.
  - In NYC (and statewide) public employees are already provided with four hours of paid time off for any cancer screenings. This time off for cancer screening benefit is in addition to any sick, vacation, or other personal leave that an employee receives.
  - Nearly 90% of NY adults support a policy that would require employers to offer employees paid leave for cancer screenings.

- Intro 434-2026 will require all private employers with a staff of five or more to grant employees paid time off—up to five hours annually—for preventative medical care, including doctor-recommend screening.
- The entire period of the leave is excused leave, not to be charged against any other leave that the employee is entitled to receive.
- The annual five hours of leave do not roll over and cannot be used for any purpose other than to undertake preventative medical care.
- **Will you co-sponsor Intro 434-2026?**

- **Ask #2 End the Sale of Menthol Cigarettes**

- Smoking remains the number one cause of preventable death and disease in New York City
- Approximately 27% of all cancer deaths in New York are smoking-related and smoking results in more than 12,000 deaths from all types of disease in New York City annually.
- Menthol cigarettes are the most popular type of cigarette with surveys showing that half of youth (ages 12-17) who had ever tried smoking started with menthol cigarettes, and 42.3% of high school students who smoke reported using menthol cigarettes in 2023.
- Tobacco companies spend over \$162 Million per year in New York to market their deadly and addictive products.
- Black, Hispanic, and Asian communities face greater tobacco industry marketing as do women, and the LGBTQ+ community.
- As a result, these communities have higher rates of menthol cigarette use and greater health disparities.
- Int 0609-2026 will once and for all end the sale of menthol cigarettes by the 4,000+ licensed tobacco retailers in New York City
- The legislation also clarifies that it is not illegal for a person to purchase, use, or possess a tobacco product, cigarette, electronic cigarette, or e-liquid if they are not engaged in a business as a licensed retail dealer.
- A recent study estimates that ending the sale of menthol cigarettes could help 90,000 people quit smoking in the following two years. It would also result in 3,000 youth, who would have started smoking, not do so.
- **Will you co-sponsor Intro 0609-2026?**

### **30 second pitch**

On behalf of the 40,000 New Yorkers who will be diagnosed with cancer in 2026 and the ¾ of a million cancer survivors living in New York, we have two asks of you today:

- **Will you co-sponsor Intro 434-2026**, which will improve cancer screening rates by requiring most private employers to provide paid time off—up to five hours annually, to all employees—for preventative medical care, including doctor-recommend cancer screening?
- **Will you co-sponsor Intro 0609-2026**, which will help prevent more youth from becoming adults who smoke by ending the sale of menthol cigarettes at the more than 4,000 licensed cigarette stores in New York City?