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The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to you to request that you provide an additional \$45 million in the next **state budget** specifically to raise the salaries of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who support New Yorkers with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families 24 hours each day, seven days per week.

Nonprofit organizations that oversee these services rely on Medicaid for more than 90 percent of their operating budgets and spend 80 percent of that on staff wages. These nonprofits employ more than 100,000 DSPs state-wide who provide life preserving support for one of our most vulnerable populations. Due largely to low wages for the sophisticated and demanding work they do, too many workers leave these emotionally and physically difficult positions for less stressful employment, often for higher wages.

Advocates are rightly asking for an addition to the budget for this purpose and I urge you to include funding to pay a fair wage to DSPs in your next budget.

Sincerely,



*"in the community, of the community"*

Steuben County Chapter, NYSARC Inc.  
[www.arcofsteuben.org](http://www.arcofsteuben.org)

