

November 2016

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor  
State of New York  
Executive Chamber – NYS Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Across the state, more than 125,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities depend on the care of direct support professionals (DSPs), like myself, to live, work and learn as part of their communities. DSPs work for the not-for-profit agencies and perform challenging job responsibilities to support people with intensive needs. Today, I write to you to ask you to support the #bFair2DirectCare Coalition's budget request calling for increased state funding to provide fair wages to direct support professionals.

Direct support professionals are people who work directly with people with physical disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities with the aim of assisting the individual to become integrated into his/her community or the least restrictive environment.

I am one of New York's 100,000 direct support professionals who proudly works with the wonderful people, their parents and their family members so that an individual with I/DD can enjoy a full, safe and rewarding life.

I love my job and want to stay in this field and to do this it's important that our wages reflect the complexity of our work. Therefore, Governor Cuomo, we need your help.

We respectfully call upon you to include funds in your Executive Budget proposal to support wage increases for direct support professionals in the I/DD sector.

Thank you, Governor Cuomo.

Sincerely,