

WEGOTMAIL

*152 letters received
this week*

1. Criticism of teacher evaluations
2. Opposition to Peace Bridge plans
3. Problems in the Middle East
4. Support for Lancaster's decision to change its school mascot
5. **Calls to increase funding to assist people with disabilities**

People with disabilities deserve high quality of life

Our son, Craig, is turning 27 years old soon. He is a wonderful human being who happened to be born with Down syndrome. Love of family, friends and staff fill his days.

Residing in a shared living situation (with help from Aspire of WNY), he has housemates he enjoys being with. He works part time at Denny's and earns a paycheck, attends the People, Inc. Day Habilitation program two days a week (which he loves), exercises regularly, takes weekly drum lessons and is an active member of Self-Advocates of Western New York. He has a terrific quality of life and we will never stop advocating to maintain what he has.

All people with developmental disabilities need and deserve the same as our son. Parents cannot be their loved one's caregivers forever. We all age whether we like it or not. Our bodies and health change and for lack of a better word "wither." But the love parents feel for their children never withers. We want to know that they are as healthy as possible and are being taken care of and given the opportunity to be the best they can be!

Gov. Andrew Cuomo needs to see this as one of our state's priorities. Funding to help provide necessary services is imperative and deserved.

JOYCE DONATELLI

Hamburg