October 30, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo

Governor of New York State

NYS State Capitol Building

Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As a parent, sibling, or other caregiver, I want you to understand how important it is that NYS provides appropriate resources from the state budget to meet all individual’s needs. Current funding is not at appropriate levels to **safely** provide services and residential options to people with lifelong developmental disabilities. As a state, we have seen a shift, in the wrong direction, and families are struggling. The lack of options and unavailability of direct care workers, especially for those with significant behavior or health challenges, will result in tragedy.

You campaigned for your office with the promise that you “believe that NYS must protect the vulnerable”. Because of this, I believe that you must be unaware of how dire a situation this has become for family caregivers and our children.

**Families will not live forever.**

Please end the growing crisis by including additional funds in your budget proposal to pay workers a living wage. I support the ***#bFair2DirectCare*** Coalition’s “**300 Days to Better Pay”** campaign.

Our vulnerable family members deserve workers that are well-trained and well-compensated. Their job is demanding and critically needed. An increase in wages for staff would greatly improve the availability of workers, and quality of people interested in working with our loved ones, who rely on them for their most basic needs.

They deserve to receive quality services and to be protected. It is a matter of civil rights.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Name)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Address)

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