



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patricia Fahy

## Sen. Fahy's Statement on Secretary Kennedy's Comments Regarding Autism

PATRICIA FAHY April 22, 2025

| ISSUE: **DISABILITIES, AUTISM AWARENESS**



**ALBANY, N.Y.** — Senator Patricia Fahy released the following statement in response to Secretary Robert F. Kennedy's comments regarding autism and autistic Americans:

"As Chair of the New York State Senate Disabilities Committee, Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s comments suggesting that individuals with autism 'will never pay taxes, never hold a job, or never live independently,' and other disparaging claims, are not only incorrect but also

perpetuate harmful stereotypes that undermine the dignity and potential of autistic New Yorkers.

In New York State, more than 340,000 adults are living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Autistic New Yorkers are educators, entrepreneurs, business owners, and public servants, contributing meaningfully to our communities and economy here in the Capital Region every single day. Suggesting otherwise ignores the reality of autistic people's achievements, diverse array of talents and perspectives, and their inherent value.

As Disabilities Chair, I am committed to building a New York State that fosters inclusion, accessibility, and opportunity for all autistic New Yorkers. Raising awareness and breaking down barriers for our autistic community means challenging misconceptions and working towards a culture that recognizes and celebrates the contributions of every individual, regardless of neurological differences. Secretary Kennedy's comments are insensitive, wrong, and in the Capital Region and New York State, we stand with our autistic community today and every day."

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