



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael F. Nozzolio

## **Senator Nozzolio Announces April 2009 as Autism Awareness Month**

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Albany—In recognition of individuals diagnosed with autism, as well as their families and the dedicated professionals who work with them, State Senator Michael F. Nozzolio is helping to commemorate April as Autism Awareness Month.

“Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States. There are literally hundreds of families in the Finger Lakes region affected by autism,” said Senator Nozzolio. “Autism Awareness Month presents a vital opportunity to learn more about the particular challenges that families affected by autism face and for these families to gain a better understanding of the services and programs that are available to them.”

Senator Nozzolio has fought aggressively for the necessary state funding to help diagnose, treat and provide essential services for families dealing with Autism. Last year, in addition of hosting a public discussion on the issue, he led the fight to secure over \$500,000 for Autism services in the New York State budget. He also

secured an additional \$40,000 State grant for Happiness House in Geneva to assist the teachers and therapists who work with autistic children.

“Families coping with a diagnosis of Autism deserve all the help, support and compassion that we can provide. I admire the determination of the parents to provide every possible opportunity for their children and I will continue to seek financial assistance for programs that help children diagnosed with autism. I remain committed to helping in whatever way I can to support these individuals and their families. ” concluded Nozzolio.