



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Mark Grisanti

Senator Grisanti Sends Letter to Majority Leader Advocating for Funding to Support the Developmentally Disabled

MARK GRISANTI March 5, 2013

| ISSUE: **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



New York State Senator Mark Grisanti (R,I,-60) a member of the Senate Finance committee today asked his colleagues in the Senate to fully restore approximately \$120 million in proposed cuts in funding that supports and services people with developmental disabilities.

Sen. Grisanti and Senate Finance Chair John DeFrancisco believe full restoration of the

funding will support New York State's most vulnerable residents.

"As part of the ongoing budget process, I am urging the Senate to advocate for the use of the resources identified in the negotiations we have had with the Assembly and Governor Cuomo," said Grisanti. "This includes \$200 million in revenues identified by the Consensus Economic and Revenue Forecast Report, as well as any consensus spending re-estimates, rejections of new proposed spending initiatives and other available resources."

Sen. Grisanti has recently met with constituents who are concerned with the proposed budget cuts that will impact the operation of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

"I have heard from the parents, families and individuals with these disabilities who are currently being provided with support and services as well as a number of the over 12,500 employees of the agencies who assist people with developmental disabilities here in Western New York and the Finger Lakes region," said Sen. Grisanti. "Their message to me is that a 6 percent cut across-the-board is simply not manageable."

Sen. Grisanti said previous budget reductions have already impacted New York State residents who either have developmental disabilities or work in that field.

"As a result of reductions in funding that have been imposed every year since 2009, services have already been sharply cut and the proposed cut this year will force agencies to lay off

direct support staff and close or sharply reduce critical programs that people with developmental disabilities and their families rely upon," said Sen. Grisanti. "These cuts can adversely impact the health, safety and quality of life of some of the most vulnerable among us. I have been asked to do everything in my power to restore this funding as part of the budget process and therefore will bring the concerns of Western New York residents to my legislative colleagues in Albany."

The full letter can be viewed below: