

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
ON RURAL RESOURCES



SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As the State Senator representing the 54th Senate District, I respectfully request and urge you to reconsider the proposed reduction of almost \$240 million in funding for the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Non-profit providers of residential services, care coordination organizers, direct support professionals and families of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities have brought to my attention the extreme consequences that would result from these reductions.

These residences and services are vital to these vulnerable groups and those that care for them and simply cannot afford to be cut. Funding cuts will lead to a lesser quality of life and could mean the closure of many facilities that have been considered essential during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to being elected State Senator, I began my career as a direct care worker. I know firsthand the issues that face our patients, aides, nurses and other caregivers and the much needed services that OPWDD provides for our vulnerable population.

For these reasons, I respectfully request you to reconsider cutting funding for OPWDD. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela A. Helming".

Pamela A. Helming
State Senator, 54th District

