



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

December 23, 2013

Governor Andrew Cuomo
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

More than a month ago many members of the Western New York Delegation wrote to you to express our strong opposition to the plan to close the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center in West Seneca and relocate its staff and patients to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center in the City of Buffalo. As proposed under the New York State Office of Mental Health's "Center for Excellence" plan, children receiving services would be taken out of a comforting campus-like setting and moved to a big urban facility where they would live in close proximity to adults needing extensive psychiatric treatment.

To date there has been no response to our November 13 letter (see copy enclosed). Still, we maintain our view that such an action would be a tremendous disservice to the young people needing help, and we continue to urge you to stop the implementation of this aspect of the Center for Excellence plan to consider its negative ramifications.

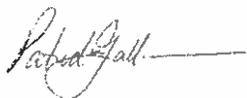
Last week you announced plans to modify other aspects of the Center for Excellence plan, namely reversing the proposed closures of the Greater Binghamton Health Center, Elmira Psychiatric Center, and the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center. Preserving beds at these facilities for adults and children receiving services will no doubt go a long way to maintain access to quality mental health treatment and care.

However, your public announcements last week failed to make any reference to the proposed closure of the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center. To reiterate, we ask that you personally review this situation and step in to keep this vital facility operating in West Seneca. As state legislators, we are very familiar with the Children's Psychiatric Center's long history of success and we fear that its closure will deny young people in our area the opportunity to turn to a safe and relaxing place where they receive the best possible attention from a dedicated staff.

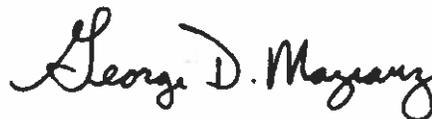
We will be happy to partner with you to find a positive resolution to this situation, and we look forward to hearing from you.

[more]

Sincerely,



Patrick Gallivan
Senator, 59th District



George D. Maziarz
Senator, 62nd District



Michael Ranzenhofer
Senator, 61st District



Mark Grisanti
Senator, 60th District

Encl.