

January 29, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As a supporter of the #bFair2DirectCare initiative, I am writing to urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to address the human services sector's critical needs in the coming year's budget **by supporting the Strong Nonprofit for a Better New York's campaign budget priority to provide \$140 million for a COLA for all human services workers.**

Direct Support Professionals work hard every day to ensure that individuals under their care receive the best possible care and services. Are you aware that DSPs provide around-the-clock care to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities? They are professionals who are highly trained in a wide-variety of critical areas that include administering medications, giving first aid and CPR, de-escalating dangerous situations, behavioral intervention, and providing for the safety of those they support. **It is SIMPLY NOT FAIR that they receive a wage similar to those working in retail or fast food industries.**

Two years ago, you pledged to provide living wage funding for direct support professionals, now is the time to act and make it a budget priority.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address: