

## LOBBY DAY 2017

Hundreds of families, staff and volunteer Board Members from CP of NYS Affiliates and other non-profit service providers from across the state joined together in Albany on March 1 for Lobby Day.

The day was organized by the Coalition of Provider Agencies (COPA) and NYSARC and brought together organizations that provide support and services to approximately 100,000 New Yorkers with disabilities and their families. Constituents from all over the state met with their elected representatives to call for additional funding to provide programs and services ranging from residential opportunities, day and employment programs, to special education, and a wide range of medical services.

One issue high on the coalition's list of priorities was a request for the Governor and the NYS Legislature to provide \$45 million in new funding in the State's budget for an increase in pay for direct care professionals and other low-wage workers at non-profit agencies across the state.

The advocates are also calling for an additional \$18 million for special education schools to narrow the gap in pay between teachers in schools run by non-profits and their public school colleagues. The group would also like to see a 4% increase in rates paid for Early Intervention services.



*NYS Senator Robert Ortt, Chair of the NYS Senate's Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee, addressed more than 100 people from across the state at Lobby Day 2017.*



*Susan Constantino (left), President & CEO of CP of NYS, and Assemblymember Aileen Gunther, Chair of the Assembly Mental Health Committee discussed the need to increase the wages of direct care professionals at Lobby Day 2017.*

The Coalition of Provider Associations is made up of five organizations, representing hundreds of non-profit providers all across the state. The group is made up of: Alliance of Long Island Agencies, Inc., Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY, InterAgency Council of Developmental Disabilities, Inc., and NY Association of Emerging and Multicultural Providers, Inc. With 48 chapters across New York State, NYSARC supports more than 60,000 people with disabilities.



Coalition Of Provider Associations

