



ANTHONY BRINDISI
119th Assembly District

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October 31, 2016

Mr. Louis B. Tehan
President & CEO
Upstate Cerebral Palsy
1020 Mary St.
Utica, NY 13501

Dear Lou:

Recently, my office has been receiving letters from employees of United Cerebral Palsy, asking for my support of the #bFair2DirectCare Coalition's '300 Days to Better Pay' campaign.

As I know you are aware, I am strongly in support of efforts that help agencies like yours retain quality direct care workers. Many of these letters are simply signed by the employee and have no return address on them. I wanted to reply to them, and I wondered if you could either post this letter, or include my reply in a future employee newsletter. The following is my reply to these concerned employees:

Dear UCP Employee:

Thank you very much for your recent correspondence regarding support for New York residents who are employed caring for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The issue of fair pay for direct care professionals employed in this field is one I continue to hear about from concerned constituents who tell me how important the people in this field are to their loved ones. When there is a rapid turnover of these workers, it obviously affects the services and care developmentally disabled New Yorkers receive.

In June, I was one of the speakers at a kickoff event for the Direct Care Coalition at Upstate Cerebral Palsy in Utica to raise awareness for increasing compensation for direct care workers in the state's 2016-2017 Budget. I will continue to speak out and advocate for increased pay parity for these employees. I am convinced this will ultimately lead to better service for developmentally disabled clients, and less time spent by agency officials trying to fill staff vacancies.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Anthony Brindisi
Member of Assembly

