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Statement from *#bFair2DirectCare* Campaign Thanking the Governor & Legislature

New State Budget Begins Process of Providing Living Wage to Direct Care Workers Who Serve 130,000 New Yorkers with Developmental Disabilities

#bFair2DirectCare today thanked Governor Andrew Cuomo and the state Legislature for including in the new state budget funding that starts the process of paying a living wage to direct care workers who support New Yorkers with developmental disabilities.

"Governor Cuomo, Speaker Heastie, Senators Flanagan and Klein, and Republicans and Democrats in both the Senate and Assembly – you have the deep appreciation of the workers, families and self-advocates who constitute ***#bFair2DirectCare***. Your support for direct care workers, persons with developmental disabilities and their families is bipartisanship at its best.

"Our state's leaders have now shown their commitment to the 130,000 New Yorkers with developmental disabilities and the 100,000 wonderful direct care workers who support them 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Clearly they heard the stories of the enormous effort direct care workers put forth as professionals to serve New Yorkers.

"This budget demonstrates that Governor Cuomo and the Legislature agree that direct care workers deserve a living wage for the service they provide to people with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, brain injury and other developmental disabilities.

"This is a great first step in what we know is a six-year process to reach a living wage. ***#bFair2DirectCare*** looks forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to finish the job."

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