



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CP OF NYS TO RECOGNIZE NYS LEGISLATORS GUNTHER, ORTT WITH LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Cohoes, NY -- Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and Senator Robert Ortt will both be presented with the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State (CP of NYS) Legislator of the Year Award on October 30th at the 57th CP of NYS Conference at the Saratoga City Center in Saratoga Springs.

The legislators will be recognized for their leadership and commitment to ensuring that New York State provides the funding and other support necessary to maintain its leadership position in providing support and services for people with disabilities. Ms. Gunther, Chair of the Assembly Mental Health Committee and Mr. Ortt, Chair of the Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Committee were instrumental in the campaign to place funding in the next two state budgets for the **#bFair2DirectCare** six-year plan to bring the nearly 100,000 direct support professionals who work with people with disabilities closer to a living wage.

“Assemblymember Gunther and Senator Ortt have been among our strongest supporters in the State Legislature,” said Susan Constantino, President & CEO of CP of NYS. “They responded to a very real staffing crisis in the disability field and were successful in ensuring funding was available to bring our direct support professional salaries closer to a living wage. We look forward to continuing our work with these champions of our issues and we are truly grateful for their commitment and support.”

The CP of NYS Legislator of the Year Award recognizes legislators who have made significant contributions resulting in increased independence, productivity or integration for people with disabilities, or is a benefit to their families.

For more on the 57th CP of NYS Annual Conference please visit the Conference web page at <http://www.cpodnys.org/2017-annual-conference/>.

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