

# #bFair 2DirectCare

## Legislator Outreach

One of the best ways to advocate for a living wage for direct support professionals (DSPs) is by contacting Governor Cuomo and New York State Senate and State Assembly Members and urging them to support bFair2DirectCare in the NYS Budget to ensure direct care workers earn a living wage. **Your NYS Legislators need to hear from you!**

We encourage you to call your NYS Legislators' offices and then follow up your call with an email. A script and draft email are included below that you are welcome to use as-is or you can feel free to personalize it.

To find the contact information of your NYS Legislators, click [here](#)

## SCRIPT

- Hello, my name is **[Insert Name]** and I am a **[Insert Title – DSP, parent, etc.]** and a member of the bFair2DirectCare Coalition.
- I am a constituent of the **[NYS Assembly Member/NYS Senator]** and I am calling to urge **[him/her]** to include years 3 and 4 of the living wage funding which is approximately \$75 Million for DSPs in the NYS Budget. With this funding, we can ensure direct care workers are fairly compensated for the crucial work they do to support New Yorkers with developmental disabilities.
- The developmental disabilities community is in a crisis. Due to low wages, more than 14% of all DSP jobs were vacant in 2017. This is a 30% increase since 2016, and an 80% increase since 2014.
- The staff turnover rate was also 26.7% in 2017, a 42% increase from 2014.
- I hope the **[NYS Assembly Member/NYS Senator]** will stand up for our most vulnerable population and support direct care workers in this year's budget.

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## EMAIL DRAFT

Dear **[NYS Assembly Member/ NYS Senator]**,

My name is **[Insert Name]** and I am a **[Insert Title – DSP, parent, etc]** and a member of the bFair2DirectCare Coalition.

I am a constituent of the **[NYS Assembly Member/NYS Senator]** and I am reaching out to urge **[him/her]** to support including years 3 and 4 of the living wage funding which is approximately \$75 Million for direct support professionals in the NYS Budget. With this crucial funding, we can ensure direct support professionals, the individuals who support New Yorkers with developmental disabilities, will be better compensated for the extraordinary work they do.

The developmental disabilities community is in a crisis, and it's only getting worse. A survey conducted by the bFai2DirectCare Coalition for 2017 found the following:

- 14.4 percent – or one in seven – of all direct support staff jobs were vacant, an increase of 30 percent since 2016 and up 80 percent since 2014, when the vacancy rate was 8 percent;
- The staff turnover rate is 26.7 percent annually, an increase of eight percent since 2016 and up 42 percent since 2014, when the turnover rate was 19 percent;
- One in ten direct support professionals leave the job after less than six months;
- More than 10 million overtime hours were logged, an increase of eight percent since 2016 and up from 5.6 million hours, in 2014, an increase of 79 percent.

These statistics speak volumes of how the DSP staffing crisis is growing worse over time which, in turn, jeopardizes the access to quality care for the developmental disabilities community.

Without the **[NYS Assembly Member/NYS Senator]**'s support, the low wages for DSPs will continue to negatively influence the ability to attract and retain staff. This will only further the destabilization of the DSP workforce and will threaten this critical system of care for those with developmental disabilities.

For more information about bFair2DirectCare, please click [here](#). I hope **[NYS Assembly member/NYS Senator]** will stand up for our most vulnerable population and support direct care works in this year's budget. Thank you for reviewing this information.

**[INSERT SIGNATURE BLOCK]**