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Helping Individuals Reach Life's Aspirations

ATTN: ALL LIFESPIRE EMPLOYEES
FROM: TOM LYDON
DATE: April 8, 2022
RE: THE NYS BUDGET UPDATE

Governor Hochul and the NYS Legislature reached an agreement on the NYS budget last night. Earlier this afternoon, the Senate and Assembly passed the Health and Mental Hygiene budget bill.

The final budget reflects and expands on the significant investment originally outlined in the Executive Budget. This is by far the largest investment New York state has made in the I/DD field in over a decade. We were asking for a 11% COLA, we were given 5.4%. Although we did not achieve the 11% COLA as proposed in the Assembly one-house bill, we were successful with our initial request – and in **securing recognition of the crisis we are facing and the need for substantial investment in the I/DD field.**

With this budget, Gov. Hochul and our elected officials have demonstrated a commitment to the voluntary provider sector, our direct care workforce, and the individuals and families we support. These investments are only the start of a much larger conversation about how to adequately fund equitable wages for our dedicated workforce, and ensure sustained investment the New York's system supports and services. Our fight isn't over, but the landscape has shifted, and we will continue to raise our voices together to achieve lasting support and solutions.

We will continue to advocate for our DSP Workforce. Thank you to all of you who sent out electronic letters and made calls to your elected officials. We have been in constant battles be it COVID, government mask and vaccine mandates, fighting for heroes pay, retention and longevity bonuses from the government but the war isn't over. We need to continue to fight for solutions to our workforce crisis, insuring we get the COLA year in and year out, and somehow convince gov't to fix the compression issue Cuomo created.

I am personally so proud of the staff who work here at Lifespire. On behalf of our founders Ida Rappaport and Harry Kamish, and the entire board of Directors thank you for your advocacy and your tireless loyalty to the mission. You all have kept the people we support safe, healthy and they thrived despite a worldwide pandemic!

With Continued Gratitude and Respect,

Thomas Lydon
CEO/Lifespire