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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor and New York State Legislature Agree to Restore Cuts in OPWDD Funding

Amsterdam, NY- Earlier today, Governor Cuomo along with the New York State Assembly and Senate passed legislation on a process to restore the \$90 million cut in funding passed in the 2013-2014 state budget.

These major cuts were to the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), which funds agencies like Liberty. The proposed 6% across-the-board funding cut to not-for-profit providers throughout the state would have meant a \$2.3 million budget reduction for Liberty.

“Restoration of these cuts is not only crucial to Liberty but to all agencies who support individuals with developmental disabilities,” said Mike Decker, Liberty CEO. “Liberty would like to thank our local legislators, Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk, co-sponsor of the measure and Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara for their support and dedication to individuals with developmental disabilities.”

Liberty, the Montgomery County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc., was part of a concerted lobbying effort that began back in March. Self Advocates from Liberty meet with Assemblyman Santabarbara and were introduced on the Assembly floor. They then joined the Assemblyman and Senator Tkaczyk at a press conference at our sister agency Schenectady ARC in an effort to help raise awareness of the proposed cuts.

Liberty, is a member chapter of NYSARC, Inc., the largest not-for-profit organization in New York State and the United States supporting people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families. The organization was founded in 1957 by parents committed to creating quality supports for their family members. Liberty continues to be guided by like-minded family members and interested individuals from our community. Locally, offers Liberty support day, vocational, residential, family support and health-related programs for 5,500 area residents.

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