

NEW YORK SELF-DETERMINATION COALITION
www.nyseld.org
Comment on Governor Cuomo's Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

The New York Self-Determination Coalition (NYSelfD) is an all-volunteer group of parents of people with developmental disabilities. We promote self-determination for people with disabilities by training and mentoring parents, and through advocacy.

What does self-determination mean in the day-to-day lives of people?

- Having control over daily activities: paid or volunteer work, continuing education, recreation
- Choosing support: family, coworkers, friends, support staff
- Deciding where to live: an apartment with a roommate, a house with friends, alone
- Being able to set the rhythms of your day: what time to eat, when to go to sleep
- Letting people with developmental disabilities, and their circles of support control their budgets and choose the services and supports that best meet their needs

NYSelfD strongly supports the Governor's recommendation to expand the exemption to the Nurse Practice Act to people with developmental disabilities receiving services through OPWDD.

This provision is the critical change in policy that will allow people with developmental disabilities to truly be part of their communities. Currently, medications and other services prescribed by a physician must be administered in OPWDD certified settings. When this expansion is in place:

A 24-year old woman would be able to work in the cafeteria of the Community College, even though she needs a reminder to take her seizure medication during her shift.

A 30-year old man will be able to attend a night baseball game, because his support worker can help him with his asthma inhaler.

A 29-year-old will be able to share an apartment with a friend who also has disabilities, and their support staff can assist them with their medication regimens.

The Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead decision requires that states provide services to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Closing large institutions is just the beginning. In order to fulfill the mandate of Olmstead New York State must approve the expansion of the Nurse Practice Act.

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