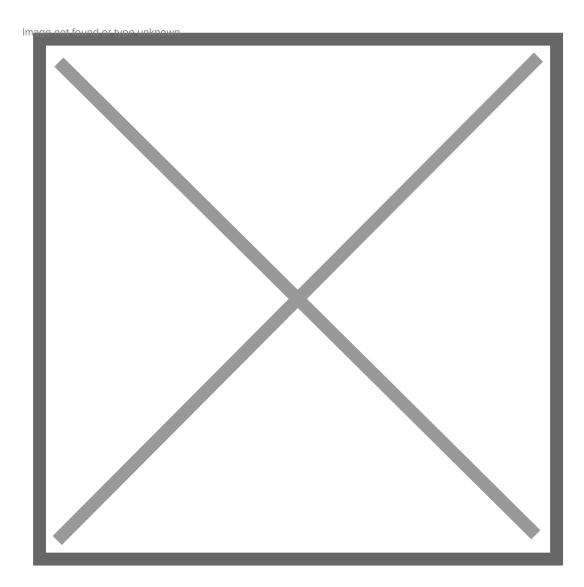


Statement From Senator Gipson on the Opwdd Budget Cuts

TERRY GIPSON March 7, 2013



For Immediate Release: March 7, 2013

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STATEMENT FROM SENATOR GIPSON ON THE OPWDD BUDGET CUTS

Poughkeepsie, NY ~ Governor Cuomo's 30 day Amendment Budget release includes a \$120 million cut in funding to the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). These cuts would have a devastating impact on the non-profit organizations that deliver services for the OPWDD, not to mention their clients' families and communities.

Senator Gipson strongly supports a full restoration of the \$120 million proposed cut to the OPWDD budget, and he has been working diligently with non-profits in his district and his Senate colleagues to rally support for this restoration.

"Restoring the \$120 million will go a long way in providing the care, concern and compassion to those who are neediest among us," Gipson said. "These cuts will sadly result in closed facilities, loss of services and a potential return to the bad old days of Willowbrook, which no one wants to see happen. I am fully committed to convincing the Governor that these budget cuts must be avoided at all costs."

Video of Senator Gipson at the NYS Joint Legislative Budget hearing on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

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