

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR Michael F. Nozzolio

## Senator Nozzolio Announces Autism Roundtable-Happiness House and local service providers to participate

MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO January 17, 2014

New York State Senator Michael Nozzolio will join with representatives from Happiness House, autism professionals and local service providers to host a roundtable discussion on Saturday, January 25th in Canandaigua for families with a child diagnosed with autism. A number of autism experts and area professionals will participate in the roundtable discussion to explain what services and assistance are available for families dealing with autism.

"A diagnosis of autism effects not just the child but the entire family and as we have seen the number of children diagnosed with autism continues to rise," said Senator Nozzolio. "I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with Happiness House and other local service providers to provide critically important information about the services that are available to families dealing with a diagnosis of autism."

Senator Nozzolio has been a strong advocate for individuals and families living with autism. Senator Nozzolio previously secured funding to establish the Happiness House Autism Evaluation Center in Geneva in order to provide families with comprehensive diagnosis and treatment options right here in the Finger Lakes region.

Senator Nozzolio also co-sponsored and successfully fought to enact legislation to require health insurance policies to provide coverage for screening, diagnosis and treatment for patients on the autism spectrum. This legislation was adopted in both houses of the State Legislature and signed into law, closing the gap in coverage for families living with autism. This law is one of the strongest autism insurance reforms in the Nation and as a result, thousands of families will be eligible to receive early diagnosis and intense early intervention services.

"Families coping with autism need all the help, support and extra care that we can provide. As State Senator, I will continue fighting to support programs that help children diagnosed with autism and I remain committed to helping support these individuals and their families," concluded Senator Nozzolio.

Details of the event are as follows:

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

## Place: Canandaigua Inn on the Lake 770 South Main Street Canandaigua, NY

For further information or to RSVP please contact Senator Nozzolio's office at <u>1-888-568-9816</u> (toll-free).