



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Hundreds of New Yorkers rallied at the Capitol this week in support of an 8.5% Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Direct Support Professionals who care for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).

Our resolution to recognize March 2023 as Developmental Disabilities Month in the State of New York was adopted by the Assembly. Additionally, I spoke in support of an important resolution proclaiming March 21, 2023 as Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

On Saturday, April 15 from 10am-2pm we are hosting a no-cost paper shredding event in front of Chase Bank (79/York). No books, bindings or x-rays are permitted.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

**Seawright Rallies With Disabilities Advocates For
8.5% Cost Of Living Adjustment In The Final Budget**



Chair of the People With Disabilities Committee, Assembly Member Seawright kicked off the rally by saying, "With your help we can keep this level of support in the adopted budget. After years of neglect for this vital system, we are here to demand respect!"



Hundreds of disability advocates from across New York State filled the Legislative Office Building for a Statewide rally calling on Governor Hochul and the State Legislature to include the full 8.5% COLA and make the inclusion of the COLA automatic year after year in the FY24 Final Enacted State Budget.

The results of a recent New York Disability Advocates survey found that direct support positions remain at nearly 20% vacancy statewide which equals up to 19,788 vacancies that need to be filled by the not-for-profit sector. Additionally, the annual turnover rate for provider agencies statewide is at a staggering 30%, costing provider agencies \$100.5 million annually. This cost directly inhibits funding essential supports and services for New Yorkers with I/DD, and lack of quality staff has left thousands of New Yorkers with I/DD and their families without access to much-needed care. Unfortunately, without adequate funding to offer competitive wages, agencies cannot recruit and retain staff to build a sustainable I/DD service system.





Assembly Member Seawright and Coach Ryan Martin of the CUNY Adaptive Sports department.



Seawright stood beside Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), agency heads, and their clients to say that people with I/DD deserve better!



**SEAWRIGHT
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
MONTH
RESOLUTION
ADOPTED BY
ASSEMBLY**





Seawright spoke in support of the Assembly Resolution proclaiming March 21, 2023 as Down Syndrome Awareness Day in the State of New York.

She said, "The theme for the national World Down Syndrome day is 'with us not for us,' simply stated to mean that people with down syndrome are deserving of the same human rights as all of us."

Click the image to hear her full remarks.

As Featured In...



"Mother of Disability Rights Movement" Judith Heumann Is Remembered

Disability rights activist Judith Heumann passed away on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at age 75. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, who is the chair of the People with Disabilities Committee in the NYS Assembly, wrote a moving eulogy paying tribute to Heumann, who was raised in Brooklyn.

[Read More](#)

Seawright Holds Firm On Support Of 4201 Schools In The Budget



The Executive Budget cut \$2 Million in funding to the 4201 Schools of New York that serve the blind, deaf and severely physically disabled. Seawright urged her colleagues to restore and increase funding. The Assembly "One-House" proposal restored the \$2 Million and added \$10 Million in aid.

Talent Unlimited Students Showcase Performance For New York State School Music Association At The Capitol



Assembly Member Seawright welcomed the students to Albany and enjoyed their showcase.

Seawright Introduces Wendy Diamond Founder of Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization On The Floor Of The Assembly



Click the image above to watch the full introduction of Wendy Diamond.

Assembly Member Seawright Speaks On ERA Coalition Panel Pushing For Passage Of Federal Equal Rights Amendment



Governor Kathy Hochul Hosts St. Patrick's Day Celebration



Hochul spoke about her Irish heritage and the importance of Irish-American contributions to New York State and the United States.



Assembly Member Seawright talks about diversifying Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation Board appointments with Governor Hochul.



Seawright checks in with Guillermo Linares, Higher Education Services Corporation President about expansion of Tuition Assistance Program awards.

Community Scrapbook: St. Patrick's Day



St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshall Attorney General Letitia James, Assembly Members Rebecca Seawright and Alex Bores.



Congressman Jerry Nadler and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.



Seawright and community leader Ben Akslerod.

Seawright Speaks At SOMOS Conference As Model Senate Students Debate The Equal Rights Amendment Legislation



Seawright (left, blue jacket) stands with Chair Karines Reyes (center, tan dress) and members of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Taskforce.



Seawright stands with her former Chief of



Seawright speaks with one of the

Staff Katarina Matic who is a CUNY alumni giving back in service to the program she took part in as a student. She volunteers as the Model Senate facilitator and clerk in the debate among 60 CUNY and SUNY students. The students debated Assembly Member Seawright's Equal Rights Amendment.

students advocating for higher education in the State Budget.

Consider Our Office A Resource!



Rebecca
Seawright
ASSEMBLY MEMBER



NO-COST COMMUNITY SHREDDING

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
10 AM - 2 PM

1495 YORK AVENUE
(IN FRONT OF CHASE BANK
80/79 STREETS)

NO NOTEBOOKS, BINDINGS,
OR X-RAYS

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER SEAWRIGHT
1485 YORK AVENUE
212-288-4607
SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

Construction Updates

MTA 63 Street Track Replacement Project

MTA is revising its schedule for the replacement of its direct fixation track along the 63rd Street corridor, which is used by the F line to travel between Manhattan and Queens via Roosevelt Island and the 63rd Street Tunnel.

Last month MTA informed the ridership that a critical state of good repair track work would begin May 1, 2023 and proceed in three consecutive phases through October 2023.

MTA reports they are coordinating closely with a concurrent project to upgrade the signal system along the Queens Boulevard Line to Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC) and are **reevaluating the start date and overall schedule of the direct fixation track work** in coordination with several other projects along the Queens Boulevard Line and other subway lines.

At this time there is no revised schedule for the 63rd Street line track work. **It will not start before July 1, 2023, and due to other scheduling factors, the start may be pushed to 2024.**

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