



ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Subcommittee on Autism
Spectrum Disorders
COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Energy
Governmental Employees
Mental Health
Racing and Wagering
Veterans' Affairs

June 11th, 2020

The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
State Capitol Building
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

With re-opening plans underway in New York State, I write with much concern that many day programs for adults with disabilities still remain closed. These programs and services are essential to many families in our community and important as many begin to re-enter the workforce while we begin to rebuild our economy.

We've all made enormous sacrifices during these difficult times, however the needs of our adult disabled population must not be forgotten. Since COVID-19, for more than three months day programs for adults with disabilities have remained closed. With no assistance for thousands of families across the state of New York this population is seeing regression and losing valuable skills needed for independence.

These programs are important to so many lives as they help people remain independent. They are an essential source of support for families and their loved ones, providing reliable care, therapeutic and health services, educational activities and social interaction. While re-opening these programs may be challenging, it will allow many families to go back to work and for their loved ones to be safe and cared for.

As we are seeing more businesses, golf courses and restaurants start to re-open, it still remains unclear exactly where adult day programs fall in New York's re-opening plans. I urge you to provide a timeline and the necessary guidelines to allow them to safely resume as soon as possible. Please do all that you can to re-open this much-needed resource for those living in our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara
Assembly Chair of sub-Committee on Autism Spectrum Disorders