



ACTION ALERT

120 West 57 Street New York, NY 10019 Phone 212 586-4555 Fax 212 541-6183

A non-profit tax-exempt organization representing New York City's community-based mental health sector.

Who needs a raise?

New York State's legislators think they need a raise (see attached article). They earn an average of only \$66,000. George Pataki claims that his salary of only \$130,000 is insufficient to support his family. Our elected officials believe that people who do important work deserve to be adequately compensated. *They're right.*

Mental health care providers do important work. According to Governor Pataki it's a critically important work. We earn an average of less than \$30,000.

Our legislators may be right, \$66,000 may not be enough to support a family in New York City. If that's the case, \$30,000 is even more inadequate.

Tell your elected representatives that it would be shameful to give themselves a raise without providing a COLA for human services workers.

✉ Write/fax/email Speaker Silver, Majority Leader Bruno and your Senator and Assemblymember and tell them that we have not forgotten our COLA.

Hon. Joseph L. Bruno Majority Leader New York State Senate 909 Legislative Office Building Albany, NY 12247 Fax: (518) 455-2448 bruno@senate.state.ny.us	Hon. Sheldon Silver Speaker NY State Assembly Legislative Office Building #932 Albany, NY 11248 Fax: (518) 455-5459 speaker@assembly.state.ny.us
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If you need help identifying your Senator or Assemblymember or lack contact information, please call Joshua Rubin at (212) 586-4555x17 or email him at jfrubin@cvmha.org.

Sample letter is attached.

Assemblymember/Senator ??????????
??? Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247/8

Dear my local representative:

Congratulations on your successful re-election campaign. I am pleased that we will have the opportunity to continue to work together to make New York an even better State. One tremendous step in the right direction would be to provide a cost of living adjustment for workers in the human services.

The members of our legislature have been working hard for the people of New York without receiving a raise for a decade. What was a reasonable salary ten years ago is barely enough to support a family now. You deserve a raise. Ten years ago human services workers barely earned enough to support a family. After ten years without a raise, you can imagine how hard it is now. We deserve a raise.

I know that when you return to Albany you will be working to get a cost of living adjustment for New York State legislators. When you do, don't forget human services workers. Our important work is inadequately compensated.

Thank you for your kind attention to these matters.

Sincerely,