



# ACTION ALERT

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

## COLA - Summer Refreshment

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver announced yesterday that the Assembly would return to session next week. The only item currently on the agenda for the summer session is 'Jenna's Law,' which would end parole for first-time violent offenders. While we do not know for certain at this time, it is possible that the agenda could be expanded to include other unfinished Assembly business including the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for human services workers.

### Action Requested:

- **Call/fax/write/email Speaker Silver and let him know that you want the COLA put on the summer agenda.**

Hon. Sheldon Silver  
Speaker  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building # 932  
Albany, NY 11248

Phone: (518) 455-3791  
(212) 385-6680  
Fax: (518) 455-5459  
(212) 312-1425

- **Call/fax/write/email your Assemblymember and ask him/her to encourage the Speaker to put the COLA on the summer agenda.**

Call Joshua Rubin at The Coalition if you need contact information or help identifying your Assemblymember.

*Sample letters are attached.*

July 21, 1998

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Hon. Sheldon Silver  
Speaker  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building # 932  
Albany, NY 11248

Dear Speaker Silver:

I am writing today to request that you use the Assembly's summer session as an opportunity to provide a Cost of Living Adjustment for human services workers. I was greatly disappointed when the regular legislative session ended without action on the COLA from the Assembly. I am hopeful that you will take this opportunity to act now.

It is puzzling to me that the COLA did not pass the Assembly, our dependable ally. As you know, the Senate managed to pass a mental hygiene COLA bill (S7787) before the legislative session ended. Governor Pataki publicly proclaimed on June 19 that he would sign the COLA legislation if it comes to him. The only missing piece is the Assembly. Please bring this legislation (A11334) to a vote during the summer session. Thousands of mental hygiene workers from all across the State will thank you for it.

Sincerely,

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July 21, 1998

Hon. ?????? ???????  
Member  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building # ???  
Albany, NY 11248

Dear Assemblymember ???????:

I am writing you today to ask you to urge Speaker Silver to bring the Cost of Living Adjustment for human services workers (A11334) to the floor for a vote during the Assembly's summer session. I was greatly disappointed when the regular legislative session ended without action on the COLA from the Assembly. I am very pleased that you have the opportunity to act now, and hopeful that you will take it.

It is puzzling to me that the COLA did not pass the Assembly, our dependable ally. As you know, the Senate managed to pass a mental hygiene COLA bill (S7787) before the legislative session ended. Governor Pataki publicly proclaimed on June 19 that he would sign the COLA legislation if it comes to him. The only missing piece is the Assembly. Please encourage Speaker Silver to bring this to a vote during this special summer session. Hundreds of human services workers in your district will be grateful if you do.

Sincerely,