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LOOK INSIDE

for new opportunities, resources, and services now available for people with disabilities

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara:

Working for people with disabilities and their families



Assemblyman Santabarbara with his son, Michael, who has autism, visiting the State Capitol during Autism Acceptance Month

Dear Friend,

I know firsthand the importance of being a strong voice for the disability community. Since being elected to the Assembly, I've always fought to make our state a more inclusive and accepting place for people of every ability, and this past legislative session was no different.

I helped pass a state budget supporting the critical services and resources that New Yorkers with disabilities and their families rely on. I've secured funding for vital programs and introduced legislation to help expand employment opportunities.

I understand how disabilities can affect loved ones - as the father of a son with autism, my experience is lived. That is why you can rest assured knowing I'll continue working to create a future where all New Yorkers can grow their independence in a supportive environment regardless of their ability.

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angelo".

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara

111th District | Representing areas of Schenectady & Montgomery Counties



Questions? Need more information? I'm here to help.
2550 Riverfront Center | Amsterdam, NY 12010 | 518-843-0227
433 State St. | Schenectady, NY 12305 | 518-382-2941 | SantabarbaraA@nyassembly.gov

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara:

New legislation that helps families, friends and neighbors with disabilities

Employer Training for Employees with Disabilities and Workforce Retention

This legislation develops an employer training program for hiring individuals with disabilities to decrease these high poverty rates. This new law directs the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities to establish a voluntary training and certification program for employers that pledge to embrace a philosophy of inclusivity.¹



Establishing the Entrepreneurship and Employment Programs for People With Disabilities

Last year's state budget included funding for the Inclusive Entrepreneurship and Employment Pilot Program for Persons with Disabilities. Through this program at SUNY Schenectady, students with disabilities can take college courses at no cost in two tracks: Entrepreneurship or Employment. This pilot is assisting 15 people with disabilities for one year by giving them the education, training, and access to resources they need to succeed in their chosen careers.²

Establishing Comprehensive Autism Assessment Centers in New York State

A proper diagnosis is the first step toward helping people with disabilities access the resources necessary to provide them with the most enriching life possible. That's why Assemblyman Santabarbara co-sponsored legislation that would help ensure children with autism spectrum disorders receive a comprehensive assessment, leading to the development of more effective interventions.³



¹(Ch.564 of 2022)
²(Ch.54 of 2022)
³(A.1350)



Supporting Full-time Caregivers

Caregivers play an essential role in our community, providing unwavering support to individuals with disabilities. They often bear the full responsibility for the care, safety, and well-being of their loved ones and cannot leave them unattended for extended periods. This bill recognizes the demanding nature of their roles and aims to alleviate the burdens they face. By excusing full-time caregivers from jury

service, this legislation not only eases their daily challenges but also ensures that the people under their care receive the attention they require.⁴

Protecting Children with Disabilities in Schools

We must develop plans addressing the care and safety of special needs children in schools and day care facilities when a building lockdown or other emergency occurs. This bill will ensure that schools and day care facilities create and maintain evacuation plans for these students. The legislation would require schools and day care facilities to devise a plan in collaboration with local law enforcement and fire safety personnel, employees, parents of children and other relevant stakeholders. A copy of the plan would always be available in school or day care facilities.⁵



Creating New Opportunities in Our Community

Assemblyman Santabarbara provided funding for the City of Amsterdam's first sensory-friendly playground creating an inclusive and accessible environment for children of all abilities as well as a safe and welcoming space for children with sensory sensitivities, ensuring that every child can play, learn, and grow together.⁶

⁴(A.8182)
⁵(A.4978)
⁶(Ch.54 of 2022)