Dear Governor Cuomo

I am a direct support professional employed by the (agency).  I care for people with developmental disabilities.   My job is enormously gratifying since I help people lead safe and fulfilling lives.

We support your decision to give fast food and state workers a $15 per hour minimum wage.  However, the health, safety and wellbeing of our most vulnerable citizens depend on jobs like mine.  It is extremely demanding and requires extensive training, intensive paper work and stringent accountability.  Everything I do along with my co-workers is subject to the strictest State scrutiny and any misstep by us can have serious consequences.   Yet our wages are uniformly low.

Those of us who support families often must work more than one job to make ends meet.  Economically and professionally we are under enormous pressure.  This pressure undermines employee morale and many of my coworkers are actively looking for jobs in the fast food industry.  All of this threatens the quality of care and the vulnerable citizens of New York State who we serve.

On behalf of myself, my coworkers and people with developmental disabilities, I implore you to fully fund an increase for all direct support professionals along with a $15 minimum wage.

Sincerely,