Adult Home Residents Speak Out to Legislators
By Geoff Lieberman, Executive Director, CIAD

A busload of adult home residents from New York City woke up well before dawn and braved winter storm warnings and several inches of snow to attend the Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled’s (CIAD) 10th annual Adult Home Resident Speak Out on March 19th in Albany.

They had several critically important messages for the New York State Legislature:

1) Roll out Governor Cuomo’s plan to provide adult home residents with independent housing;
2) End the exemption of certain adult homes to the important protections provided to vulnerable New Yorkers by the new Justice Center;
3) Ensure New York is better prepared to protect disabled New Yorkers, including adult home residents, when the next major storm or disaster hits.

The goal of CIAD and its Speak Out is to give residents a voice.

James Ramdeau, a resident at the Park Inn Home for Adults in Rockaway said of the Speak Out, “it was very informative and a great experience. It made me feel more dignified.”

Lydia Rodriguez, from Riverdale Manor Home for Adults, in the Bronx explained her reasons for wanting to move. “There is no independence, no privacy and it’s not the same as living on your own. I look forward to moving into my own place as soon as possible.”

James, Lydia and the other residents timed their trip perfectly and were very successful in their efforts. They helped fend off an 11th hour proposal by the New York State Senate to delay the implementation of the state’s housing initiative for adult home residents.

CIAD had the crucial support of the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, the Mental Health Association of NYS and the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitative Services, organizational members.
of the New York State Coalition for Adult Home Reform, and long-time allies in adult home residents’ efforts to achieve dignity, respect and independence.

Now that the budget is passed, CIAD turns its attention to residents’ legislative goals—strengthening the state’s oversight of adult homes, training for adult home staff, and nurse coverage in assisted living facilities caring for frailer residents.