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Senator James Seward Honored as Independent Living Champion

Utica, NY, February 19, 2016: At the annual New York Association for Independent Living (NYAIL) Legislative Day event on February 8th at the state capital, the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) joined disability advocates from across the state in recognizing Senator James Seward with the **Independent Living Champion** award for promoting independence, community integration, and equal rights of all people with disabilities.

First elected in 1986, Senator Seward has celebrated many significant achievements in his role and has received recognition for his advocacy and responsiveness, including enactment of the "Power for Jobs" program, broadened health insurance coverage and reform, and the "Freedom Plan" to match simpler, lower cost health insurance policies with federally authorized health savings accounts.

In addition to these accomplishments, Senator Seward has been a steadfast supporter of independent living centers including those in Herkimer, Oneonta, and Cortland. "He is genuinely and routinely responsive to his constituents' needs both in his district offices and at his Albany office. He never wavers in hearing them and representing their views in the work he does every day," said Chad W. Underwood, Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc. (ATI) Chief Executive Officer.

Providing services throughout 48 counties, the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) is the largest Independent Living Center (ILC) in New York State. RCIL offers a variety of programs and services to help keep you and your loved ones living at home, in the community, and as independent as possible!

For more information about the programs and services offered by RCIL, please visit our website at www.rcil.com or give us a call at 315-797-4642.