



**Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities**

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

2021 Recipient of the Alliance for the Betterment of Disabilities

"Legislator of the Year Award"

Deputy Speaker Gary S. Schaer

December 16, 2021

Gary Schaer was elected to the NJ General Assembly in November 2005 and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee and as a member of the Financial Institutions and Insurance, and Homeland Security Committee. Assemblyman Schaer is also the Deputy Speaker and Policy Chair of the Assembly. He served as Chairman of the Budget Committee for 4 years, headed the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee for 6 years, and has been serving as Deputy Speaker since 2014.

Assemblyman Schaer began his 26th year as a Councilman of the City of Passaic, has served as Passaic's Acting Mayor for 6 months, and has been chosen by his colleagues to serve as Council President for 23 years.

In 2018, Assemblyman Schaer was awarded the Jersey Nurses Economic Security Organization (JNESO) Public Servant of the Year award and has been recognized as the Legislator of the Year by the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, the North Jersey Arts and Science Charter Schools, the Education Association of Passaic, and the New Jersey Hospital Association. He has been honored by the Passaic County Probation Officers Association, the Passaic City Housing Authority, the Passaic City Public Library, and received the Abe Berliner Award from Home Care Options for making a substantial contribution to the quality of life of residents in Passaic County. Assemblyman Schaer has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Financial Planning Association of New Jersey and been recognized for his outstanding public service by Parent Advocates for Disability Rights. Additionally, Assemblyman Schaer has been honored by the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies for his leadership in state system reform for mental health and addictions, as well as the New Jersey Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association for his dedication to improving psychiatric rehabilitation services in New Jersey. He has been acknowledged by the Southern Poverty Law Center for his important contribution to the ongoing fight against hatred and intolerance in America.

Assemblyman Schaer has been married to his wife Donna for over 45 years; they have three children and four grandchildren.

ABCD is pleased to provide this small gesture to acknowledge Assemblyman Schaer's friendship and support of our community and his leadership in the NJ Legislature to help ensure that our members continue to provide high quality services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities at every stage of life and at every level of ability.