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State Association for Retarded Says Carey Reneged on Program

By JUDITH CUMMINGS

The State Association for Retarded Children accused Governor-elect Hugh L. Carey yesterday of backing down from his campaign pledge to separate programs for the mentally retarded from the Department of Mental Hygiene.

The association charged in a news conference that the creation by Mr. Carey of a task force on mental health without creating a separate task force responsible for mental retardation represented "a lack of understanding that mental retardation is completely different from mental illness."

Elliot L. Aronin, president of the association, announced the formation of its own 13-member task force, which he said would "advise the Governor on how to effect the separation"

and recommend "steps to remedy a situation where only \$7-million out of \$70-million is spent on mental retardation services" in the Department of Mental Hygiene budget.

A spokesman for Mr. Carey, when asked about the group's charges, said the Governor-elect had instructed his mental health task force "as one of its major assignments to study the whole separation question." A report from the study group, which is headed by Dr. Kevin Cahill, is expected in a matter of days, the spokesman said.

"It is Mr. Carey's intention to do a great deal of consulting, including with the various voluntary organizations in the field, and their views will be given very serious consideration in his decisions as Governor," the spokesman added.