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LETTERS

State acting on needs of mentally retarded

IN the editorial, "Retarded need help, not promises" (Aug. 2), reference was made to alleged failings at the Staten Island Development Center, formerly known as Willowbrook.

The facts — including those presented to the state by the Dept. of Health and Human Services itself — speak differently than the rhetoric.

To begin with, the federal audit of the Staten Island center last winter did not cite major health and safety deficiencies.

In fact, nearly all of the deficiencies noted in the audit dealt with inadequacies in the area of food service.

Conditions at Staten Island have changed, and they have changed dramatically for the better, (but) the state will not rest on its accomplishments.

It will continue to be a voice for the mentally retarded to make sure that the disabled are not deprived of their rights and that they are able to live as normal a life as possible.

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