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JOINT HEARING - LEGISLATIVE MEETING ON HEALTH/MEDICAID – TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH, 2025.

February 8, 2025

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO- CONSUMER DIRECTED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CDPAP).

I AM A PERSON WHO RECEIVES 75 HOURS A WEEK OF CONSUMER DIRECTED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE HOMECARE. I LIKE THAT I HAVE PERSONAL ASSISTANTS THAT I KNOW. I GET TO PICK THEM THROUGH PERSONAL INTERVIEWS AND PERSONAL HOUSEHOLD TASKS THAT I KNOW THAT THEY CAN PERFORM. I HIRE MY PERSONAL ASSISTANTS, AND I TRAIN THEM ACCORDING TO MY NEEDS. I HAVE A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE WHICH HELPS MEET MY CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS IN THE HOME; SUCH AS BATHING, GETTING DRESS AND GETTING INTO BED. IN THE COMMUNITY I AM ABLE TO CHOSE WHERE AND TO WHAT EXTENT I AM ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN EMPLOYMENT, VOLUNTEERING, CHURCH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

I WAS RECENTLY INFORMED BY MY CDPAP AGENCY CONCEPTS OF INDEPENDENCE CHOICES THAT THEY WOULD BE PART OF MEDICAID AND THE CONSUMERS WOULD ALSO BE CHANGING. NO ONE HAS DISCUSSED WHAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES MEAN FOR OUR CARE. TO WHAT EXTENT WILL CONSUMERS BE ABLE TO DIRECT THEIR CARE? WILL THE CONSUMERS HAVE FLEXIBILITY? WOULD THE CONSUMERS KEEP THEIR HOURS? HOW DIFFICULTY WOULD IT BE TO GET MORE HOURS IN THE FUTURE? HOW MUCH AUTONOMY WOULD THE CONSUMERS HAVE?.

I THINK THESE PROPOSED CHANGES SHOULD BE PUT ON HOLD UNTIL CONSUMERS ARE PROVIDED WITH MORE INFORMATION AND THEIR INPUT SOUGHT. TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT: (212) 663-1491.

THANK YOU.

REGARDS,

MARTHA MENDEZ, LMSW.

CC: DISABLED IN ACTION OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK.

