

Jose Castillo

My name is Jose Castillo. I live in Westbury, NY.

I have been a Personal Assistant in the Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Program for roughly the past 5 years.

CDPAP has enabled me to care for my loved ones which are my elderly mother with a heart condition and more who has limited English and limited medical understanding, my older brother an Autistic Adult who does not fare well with strangers and has other medical issues, and recently, my older sister who is a transplant survivor among other medical issues. The program has ensured that neither of us has to worry about meeting their medical and personal needs. Now I am questioning my own survival in the new situation with PPL.

The Governor's switch to PPL has failed me in these three ways...

1. Payment - I am not receiving the amount of pay for the hours I work, like I was told I would receive in my Welcome Letter, especially when it comes to Overtime pay, where my pay stubs show a normal pay rate and not the higher rate as per the letter
2. Health Benefits - Before the changeover to PPL when it was still the CDPAP I received a Basic Health Insurance that covered my medical visits, prescriptions, & more but now all I am offered is a Health Benefit Card that, according to the account, I only have \$34 to spend after having been working for PPL for the last 3 months, and with no coverage for my medications (which I wouldn't be able to afford even if I got my full pay) leaving me to question the future of my health and if I can even find a job that would offer me Health Insurance while still being able to care for my family members.
3. Peace of Mind - Nothing seems to make full sense, and there have been many hoops to jump through since the change to PPL, leaving me to explain to my family why I am having to do so many extra steps, even as I write this letter.

I am one of tens of thousands facing these issues. I call upon the Governor and the NY State legislature to stop this catastrophe before more harm is caused! Save CDPAP NOW. End the PPL monopoly and restore choice to this critical home care program! The way things are cannot go on, and who knows how long I will be able to without being able to meet my needs.