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July 3, 2025

Senator Gustavo Rivera
Chair, Senate Standing Committee On Health
2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506
Bronx, N.Y. 10458
Sent to email address: grivera@nysenate.gov

Senator James Skoufis
Chair, Senate Standing Committee On Investigations and
Government Operations
45 Quaker Avenue, Suites 202 & 207
Cornwall, N.Y. 12518-2146
Sent to email address: skoufis@nysenate.gov

Ms. Lequela Steen, MPH
Legislative Fellow
Senate Standing Committee on Health
172 State Street, Capitol Building, Room: 502
Albany, N.Y. 12247
Sent to email address: steen@nysenate.gov

**Re: July 9th, 2025 NYS Public Hearing to Examine
the Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance
Program (CDPAP) transition to a single statewide
fiscal intermediary**

Dear Chair Rivera and Chair Skoufis;

I do not understand New York State's recent action of purportedly transferring New Yorkers with disabilities who participate in the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) into a program administered by Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL), a private equity firm that is outside of New York State and that has a very bad track record with providing services. I have been a taxpayer and voter in New York State for more than 40 years and am truly puzzled by New York State's actions here.

First, I agree with Downstate New York ADAPT's comments that this major change from many-to-one single fiscal intermediary did not comply with federal and state laws and has been a total fiasco. Second, I have heard from my friends and colleagues about the many difficulties that consumers and their personal assistants have encountered; some of which are actual violations of federal and state laws such as personal assistants not being paid correctly or on time, the app not being accessible, and people waiting on hold, being disconnected, or not getting any answers to simple questions.

I am asking the Legislature and Governor to return the administration of CDPAP to the independent living centers located in New York State who have both the knowledge and ability, provided they are properly funded, to administer the consumer directed personal care assistance program in an effective and efficient manner. Placing CDPAP in the hands of the centers for independent living would be a more efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars, as well as cut out expensive corporations from the equation. This model would provide much needed employment to people with disabilities and at the same time provide services to consumers by consumers of this program. Who better would know the best way to service consumers who participate in CDPAP than those who themselves receive such services? This just makes sense that this is the most efficient and effective way to spend taxpayer dollars.

As the Covid pandemic showed us, home care is so much safer than institutional care such as nursing homes. Further, the New York State Legislature should recognize the fact that nobody wants to be placed in an impersonal institution such as a nursing home. The old adage holds true, "There's no place like home" and that is where all of us should be able to stay: in a safe and secure home.

It is time that the New York State Legislature and the Governor listen to us taxpayers and long-time voters and provide all New Yorkers, both present CDPAP consumers and possible future CDPAP users, with what we want, need, and is the most effective and efficient use of the taxpayers resources, that is, home care managed by the consumers.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Collins
Voter & Taxpayer
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Governor Kathy Hochul
At: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>