

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



August 14, 2024

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
The State of New York
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write to you on behalf of the New York State Senate Republican Conference to urgently call on you to reverse the planned cuts to the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) as outlined in the state's 2024-2025 budget. Additionally, we strongly urge the restoration of the Comptroller's oversight to ensure that any modifications to this critical program are made with full transparency and accountability.

The CDPAP program provides critical support to approximately 250,000 elderly and disabled New Yorkers, empowering them to stay in their communities and live independently in their homes. The proposed transition from roughly 700 fiscal intermediaries (FIs) to a single, state-selected intermediary threatens to destabilize this essential service, placing our most vulnerable residents at risk. While we recognize and champion the need for fiscal responsibility, it is critical that such measures do not come at the expense of those who depend on these services for their daily care and well-being.

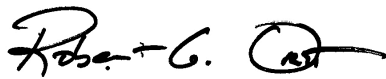
Unfortunately, the Department of Health's (DOH) mismanagement of the program, not the program itself, coupled with the misplaced priorities of the Democratic led Legislature, has contributed to the current challenges. Recent reports indicate DOH will not provide basic programmatic information such as the exact number of FIs operating in the State or the exact number of residents enrolled in the program. Withholding key public information raises serious concerns about the Department's ability to effectively oversee such a substantial change to the program.

Additionally, the bidding process itself is void of transparency due to the intentional decision to remove State Comptroller approval and oversight of the contract. This is deeply troubling and threatens the continued viability of the program. Programmatic changes of this magnitude require transparency and accountability, both of which are critically lacking in this transition.

We have seen disruptions in care in other states that have tried a similar approach and should learn from these mistakes rather than repeat them. New York's situation is unique, given the size and diversity of our state's population, and we must prioritize the continuity of care of our most vulnerable New Yorkers and their caregivers.

It is for these reasons we urge you to reverse the disastrous cuts to the CDPAP program and restore Comptroller oversight. We look forward to your prompt action on this critical issue.

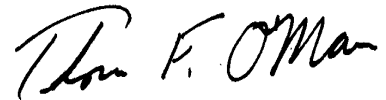
Sincerely,



Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



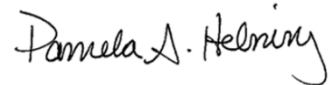
Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



Senator Dean Murray
3rd District



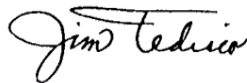
Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



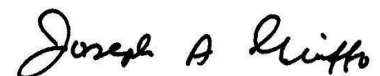
Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Rob Rolison
39th District



Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



Senator William Weber
38th District



Senator Jack M. Martins
7th District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District

Cc: Dr. James McDonald, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health
Amir Bassiri, New York State Medicaid Director