

March 24, 2025

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write to express our appreciation for your continued oversight of the New York Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) transition to a new statewide fiscal intermediary. Given the significant concerns surrounding this transition, we respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services open an investigation into its implementation and the motivations behind this deeply flawed process.

Since the transition was initiated in the FY 2025 New York State Budget, troubling reports have surfaced regarding its hasty execution. With less than ten days to go until the April 1st deadline, and more than 100,000 elderly and disabled New Yorkers having yet to begin the transition, Governor Kathy Hochul abruptly extended the deadline of the transition until April 30th. Even with this extended deadline, it is unlikely the Department of Health will be able to enroll the 100,000 individuals that have yet to begin the transition.

Reports continue to surface of patients encountering technical issues, caregivers receiving conflicting information, and a lack of transparency regarding enrollment figures. Many caregivers also face the potential loss of income and the ability to continue providing care. Additionally, the reported 40,000 patients shifting from CDPAP to Licensed Home Care Services Agencies (LHCSAs) may find themselves without services simply due to bureaucratic delays and confusion.

The transition from approximately 700 fiscal intermediaries (FIs) to a single, state-selected intermediary has been fraught with problems from the outset. To date, there is no clear evidence that the new system will improve care or efficiency. Instead, the risks far outweigh any potential benefits.

CDPAP is a lifeline for some of our most vulnerable citizens, enabling them to remain at home and avoid institutional care. If even one individual currently receiving services loses access due to this transition, it must not proceed as planned.

Given these pressing concerns, we strongly urge you to investigate the implementation of this transition. The well-being of thousands of elderly and disabled New Yorkers depends on immediate action.

Sincerely,

Senator Robert G. Ortt Senate Minority Leader

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24th District

Senator Steve Chan 17th District

Senator William Weber

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Senator Jim Tedisco

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