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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3217

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

July 22, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am reaching out today to urge the reversal of changes to the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) outlined in the NYS Budget for fiscal year 2025. This new policy will undoubtedly impact New York's fiscal intermediaries (FIs) and result in the loss of critical support services for chronically ill and physically disabled individuals in the state.

As you know, CDPAP allows the Medicaid program to cover the cost of caregivers for individuals who have a medical need for assistance with daily activities or who require skilled nursing services. Caregivers can include personal care aides, home health aides, or nurses. There are currently over 500 FIs in New York State that help ease this process for CDPAP recipients.

The NYS Budget for fiscal year 2025 overhauls the current system and allows for only a single Statewide FI. While the budget allows for this FI to subcontract with other entities to facilitate the delivery of services, subcontractors will have little flexibility or independence to operate in its most effective way. Consumers and providers alike acknowledge that this change, despite the subcontractor provision, will put FIs out of business and interrupt services for patients across the state.

While I understand the interest in consolidating the amount of FIs in operation and ensuring existing FIs are strong, reliable partners, we cannot sacrifice the integrity of CDPAP or access to care in doing so. There are surely common-sense solutions that are less aggressive, and I urge your Administration to work alongside CDPAP providers to reach them.

Again, I strongly request the reversal of this change prior to the policy's effective date in April 2025. Additionally, I urge you to consider reasonable alternatives to this policy. It is critical that we ensure the Medicaid program serves chronically ill and physically disabled individuals appropriately and there is no excuse for anything less. I look forward to hearing back and seeing how you are addressing these serious concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Lawler".

Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress