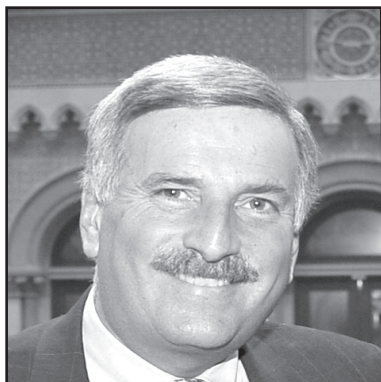


# TASK FORCE TALK

## Home Care Wages

BY DAVID WEPRIN  
N.Y.S. ASSEMBLY TASK FORCE  
ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



**F**irst, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of New York State (CDPAANYS) and Exec. Dir. Bryan O'Malley for awarding me the Constance Laymon Excellence in Leadership award at CDPAANYS's 14th Annual Conference: Freedom Through Independence, this past October.

Receiving an award in the name of Constance Laymon, a tireless disability advocate who dedicated her life towards fighting for the independence of people with disabilities, is a tremendous distinction and while I was never granted the privilege of working with Ms. Laymon, I vow to live up to the expectations that Ms. Laymon set for both herself and the advocates with whom she worked.

I would also like to offer my sincere congratulations and appreciation for CDPAANYS, New York State ADAPT and Concepts of Independence, along with over 600 consumers, workers and others who joined forces to help people with disabilities from across the state to narrowly avoid disaster by strongly urging the governor to ensure that the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) program will be included in minimum wage funding.

Thanks to their intense advocacy, CDPAANYS has been assured it is eligible for payments from managed care plans to meet the minimum wage guidance. Without this hard-won victory, the ramifications to the CDPA program could have had been devastating. In fact, some providers of CDPA services were already preparing to close their doors, which would have had the potential to force people with disabilities out of their preferred at-home living arrangements and into nursing homes in order to receive the personal care necessary to function daily.

While this was a gigantic victory to all of us, as disability advocates, there still is much work that needs to be done to protect the CDPA program. The Task Force on People with Disabilities has been working to solidify a priority agenda that is based on input received from New York's disability advocates and one that highlights the needs of New Yorkers with disabilities.

We are well aware that the integrity of the CDPA program will remain on the forefront of many organizations' advocacy efforts. As we begin the 2017 legislative session, the Task Force on People with Disabilities will keep this priority as one of ours as well.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Task Force office at 518 455-4592.