

# CDPAANYS EDITORIAL

BY BRYAN O'MALLEY, EXEC. DIR.  
& CDPAANYS STAFF



**A** week past the April 1 deadline, Gov. Hochul and the Legislature reached a final budget deal. We won't sugarcoat the news – the final budget was not what we hoped it would be, particularly around wages for home-care workers and personal assistants.

Despite New York State's worst-in-the-nation home-care workforce crisis and a revenue surplus of \$19 billion, Gov. Hochul and the Legislature failed to pass meaningful wage increases and investments in home-care and CDPA. Instead of Fair Pay for Home Care, which would have fully funded worker wage increases to \$22.50 per hour across the state, the final budget will offer a total of \$3 per hour over two years.

This includes a \$2 increase on Oct. 1 of this year and a \$1 increase on Oct. 1, 2023. It is also important to note that this increase is based on minimum wage, so if a home-care worker is currently making \$17 per hour, they may not receive a raise at all this year.

Fair Pay for Home Care as it was written also offered important protections for home-care providers and fiscal intermediaries, requiring that managed care plans pass through the funding needed to raise wages. However, Gov. Hochul's final budget took away these protections for providers, which could put the entire industry at risk of collapse.

We are working to correct this problem and hold managed care plans accountable. Insurance companies should not be getting rich off wage increases by further cutting funding to providers.

While this budget news is clearly disappointing and more work needs to be done, it would not have happened at all without the effort we, as a movement, have put in. The scale and power of Fair Pay for Home Care advocacy has grown immensely over the past year.

It was you who kept up the steadiest in-person and virtual presence in Albany and beyond for the entirety of the campaign. It was your stories that united the Legislature on both houses to include Fair Pay in their one-house budgets.

To add perspective, four years ago, we were fighting for the very existence of CDPA. Two years ago, funding for home care was cut by half a billion dollars at the start of a pandemic, while eligibility was slashed.

This year, home care was the last issue open in budget negotiations because the governor and legislators could not agree on how much of an increase to give home-care workers, and we have champions throughout the legislature speaking to the critical role of home care and CDPA in our healthcare system.

The conversation around home care, around CDPA, has dramatically shifted, and that is thanks to you. Fair Pay for Home Care came up short this year, but we forced home care and CDPA into the spotlight.

We changed the conversation. We built a movement that will move into the future. Gov. Hochul and the legislature know we are not done, and we will be back, stronger than ever.