



## **Talking Points for ending New York's long-term care institutional bias**

COVID-19 has killed more than 12,000 nursing home residents in the state. The conditions that allowed this disproportionate impact existed prior to the pandemic, as nursing homes have never been safe settings for seniors or people with disabilities. It is time to end the state's institutional bias by investing in community-based long-term care.

- The inability to contain disease spread has always been a pervasive problem in nursing homes, whether from seasonal flu to drug resistant illnesses that flourish in health care facilities. These settings presented an easy opportunity for a highly contagious and deadly virus to decimate residents.
- The AG's January report found that deaths were particularly high in for-profit nursing homes as they also staffed at the lowest levels legally allowable. The report also found that the Medicaid reimbursement structure incentivized owners to distribute profits to their shareholders instead of investing in more staff or adequate PPE.
- The FY2021 budget enacted eligibility restrictions and reimbursement cuts for CDPA and personal care while simultaneously granting nursing homes immunity to liability for COVID-19 related deaths.
- To stem the spread of the virus, nursing homes banned family visitation, exacerbating loneliness and leaving residents vulnerable to further exploitation.
- We must take the lessons from this tragedy and overhaul our long-term care system. New York is the epicenter of a worsening workforce crisis. Individuals eligible for community-based services are unable to access them because there aren't enough workers, leading to institutionalization.
- Low wages from stagnant reimbursement are the cause of the workforce crisis. Institutional bias will continue unless wages for home care workers are returned to the 150% of the minimum wage that they were at as recently as 2006.

**ASK: Will you fight to end New York's institutional bias and the workforce crisis by overhauling our long-term care system and investing in community-based services?**

*CDPAANYS is the only statewide association solely representing fiscal intermediaries, consumers and personal assistants in Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA). For more information, please contact us at 518-813-9537 or [bryan@cdpaanys.org](mailto:bryan@cdpaanys.org).*