



Talking points for eligibility expansions

- The Governor proposed two expansions to public benefits that should be applauded, but also deliver empty promises to those who benefit.
- A proposal to create income and certification equality between those who use Medicaid because they need long-term supports and services like CDPA with those who use Medicaid and rely only on acute care services would allow about 20,000 older and disabled New Yorkers to qualify for Medicaid and recertify more easily.
- Another proposal will expand the state's Essential Plan, which provides free health insurance to those who do not qualify for Medicaid or Child Health plus, to 250% of the Federal and include all long-term care benefits provided by Medicaid - including CDPA.
- The Essential Plan expansion seeks to save the state over \$110 million by allowing people who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid to receive the services at this level, which receives a higher Federal matching rate.
- While both of these expansions are much needed and will make services available to tens of thousands of people, unless action is taken to address the workforce crisis in home care and CDPA, they only amount to empty promises.
- Tens of thousands of disabled and older New Yorkers are going without services today because of the shortage. These expansions will only exacerbate these problems.
- Because people on the Essential Plan will still not be able to access services, they will be forced to private pay to receive home care still, and the state will not realize the \$110 million in savings it seeks from this expansion.
- The answer to this is to enact Fair Pay for Home Care A.6329-A/S.5374 in the SFY 2023 budget, to ensure that we invest in home care, offer workers a wage that does not force them to live in poverty, and allows our home care system to thrive again.

ASK: Will you support the expansion of benefits in Medicaid and the Essential Plan while pointing out that we must address the home care workforce crisis by enacting A.6329-A/S.5374 as a part of this year's budget?