

Dear Legislator,

I am currently employed as a home health aide. I take care of people in their homes and help make sure they are safe, healthy, and don't have to go to a nursing home or hospital. My patients treat me like one of their own family members and I value my relationships with each of them.

My patients include: special needs children, people recovering from surgeries or accidents, and the elderly. Each of my patients appreciates the role that I play in keeping them with their families, in their homes, and is truly thankful for the services that I provide.

I have just learned that the Governor's Budget will put my job at risk. I have learned that there are cuts and a change in how my agency works with other agencies. These changes may mean downsizing or closure for my employer.

I urge you to look beyond the Budget numbers and think about these cuts will affect real people and real families, who have real needs. If these cuts and restructuring proposals are enacted, I will find myself joining the staggering number of the unemployed, statewide. This burden on my financial situation and the stress on my family life will be tremendous, but my patients will be the ones who will suffer the most. The one-on-one service that they have become accustomed to may no longer be available to them. What will become of them?

Please do everything in your power to ensure that home care doesn't become a thing of the past. Protect my patients, their families, and my own family, by keeping home care a viable solution for New Yorkers.

New Yorkers are real people with real families, who have real needs.

Sincerely,