

Statewide Personal Assistance Coalition

January 7, 2025

Governor Maura Healey
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Secretary Kate Walsh
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Governor Healey and Secretary Walsh:

We are writing to urge you to provide full support for the state's Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program in the administration's Fiscal Year 2026 state budget proposal.

As you know, PCA services enable thousands of people with disabilities, including many older adults, to live independently in the community, with significant enhancement to their independence and wellbeing. Absent PCA services some people would need to enter a costly nursing facility, others might lose their job, and the health of many people would decline, putting more pressures on already overburdened health care systems and other state-funded services.

Additionally, those doing PCA work, a majority women of color, are returning funds spent on the program—which are 50% federal monies—right back into the communities in which they live. PCAs are predominantly lower-income workers who tap their bank accounts, after their paychecks are deposited, for groceries and clothing and other essentials in stores in their neighborhoods, most especially in cities designated as equity communities by the state Department of Public Health. These include Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Brockton, Fall River, Everett, Holyoke, Chelsea, Fitchburg, Framingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Malden, Methuen, Haverhill, Leominster, and Randolph.

Support for the PCA program is support for dignity, independence, health, and livelihoods, which is especially critical with the looming reality of a national administration that has disparaged efforts for equity, something that the PCA program exemplifies in extraordinary ways.

Respectfully,

Boston Center for Independent Living
1199SEIU
Center for Living and Working
Disability Law Center
Greater Boston Legal Services

Metrowest Center for Independent Living
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts
Arc Massachusetts
Ad Lib Center for Independent Living
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled
Tempus Unlimited
The Providers' Council
Massachusetts Senior Action Council
Disability Policy Consortium
Health Law Advocates
Tri Valley Elder Services
Health Care for All
Easter Seals Massachusetts
Center for Public Representation
Mass Aging Access
Southeast Center for Independent Living
Independence Associates
Disability Resource Center
Northeast Independent Living Program
Stavros Center for Independent Living
Mass Law Reform Institute
Boston Self-Help Center
Ethos