

## A Remedy for Home Health Workers



Yolanda, a home health aide in Queens, watched a beloved client die of the virus. Katie Orlinsky for The New York Times

### To the Editor:

Re "[13 Hours' Pay for a 24-Hour Shift](#)" (Op-Ed, July 1):

E. Tammy Kim powerfully illustrates the vital roles of home health workers in the pandemic. These front-line caregivers deserve full support for their unmatched heroism daily and during a global health crisis that has laid bare systemic government gaps.

The Home Care Association of New York State has joined labor and caregiver organizations in pressing Albany and Washington for remedy. Funding is urgently needed for wages that match the courage of caregivers at a time when Medicaid rates fall short of this obligation, with warnings of still further state budget cuts to come.

Home care has also appealed to all levels of government for personal protective equipment access and prioritization. Equipment inequities have required collective work by home care agencies in every borough of New York City who are voluntarily organizing citywide P.P.E. distribution centers for home care providers and workers.

A dedicated collective effort by government, payers and emergency management is needed to further provide these most essential protections.

Al Cardillo  
Albany, N.Y.

*The writer is president of the Home Care Association of New York State.*