



Samuel A.A. Levine
Commissioner

42 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dial 311
(212-NEW-YORK)

nyc.gov/dcwp

Remarks as Prepared: DCWP Commissioner Levine Delivers Remarks at DCWP's Paid Care Worker Convening

April 4, 2026

Good afternoon, New Yorkers! Thank you for joining us today.

I'm Sam Levine, Commissioner of the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection.

I'm immensely grateful to stand alongside our fantastic Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice, Julie Su, and the many worker advocates and community organizations in this room, who are helping turn our city's worker protection laws into a living, breathing reality.

Today, we are joined by workers – most of whom are immigrant women of color – whose labor strengthens our city every single day. I want to make one thing clear: as care givers and health professionals, personal attendants and home aides, you are the backbone of our city. You make it possible for families to go to work, for older adults to age with grace, for people with disabilities to live independently.

On behalf of our department – and our entire city – I want to say thank you.

DCWP is here with a simple promise: to protect your rights at work no matter your immigration status, to help you keep what you've earned, and to fight every day to make New York City a fairer, more affordable place to live.

That vision is at the heart of this administration's vision.

Mayor Mamdani has been straightforward: a more affordable city is only possible if working people – especially immigrant New Yorkers and the paid care workers who sustain our city – are treated with dignity and paid what they are owed.

That means you.

Under City law, paid care workers have essential rights and job protections – and it's our job at DCWP to enforce them.



We know the truth: for far too long, paid care work has been undervalued and too often exploited.

That's why at DCWP, we're using every tool at our disposal to ensure that you are paid fully for every hour worked, that your schedules are stable and predictable, and that you are equipped to exercise your rights without fear.

We're working hard to spread the word and ensure that every New Yorker knows their rights.

Today, members of our team will be sharing more about those rights, including those that fall under New York City's Protected Time Off Law, which is one of the strongest in the nation.

Most New York City workers get 40 to 56 hours of paid Protected Time Off.

And thanks to an expansion of the law last month, you can now use that protected time off for added flexibility:

Like if you need to stay home and care for a child – including school holidays and childcare disruptions.

Or if you're forced to stay home during public emergencies declared by the government – like snowstorms or power outages.

Employers must now also make an additional 32 hours of unpaid protected time off immediately available upon hire, and again on the first day of each calendar year.

That's what dignity on the job looks like. It's fairness in practice. And it's what this administration is clear-eyed and committed to delivering for all of you. Of course, these laws only matter if you know about them – and feel empowered to use them.

So let me be unequivocal: No matter where you live or what language you speak; no matter what type of paid care you provide, and no matter your immigration status -- you have essential rights on the job, and **you are not alone** in applying them.

If you experience pushback or are having issues using your Protected Time Off, call 311 or visit us online at nyc.gov/workers. DCWP will step in.

We will not hesitate to pursue relief for all workers and hold bad actors accountable. You deserve nothing less. And you can expect nothing less from us.

Thank you, and enjoy the convening.