



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHA Calls for Increased Commitment to Pennsylvania's Seniors

Harrisburg (February 4, 2021) – Teri Henning, CEO of the Pennsylvania Homecare Association, issued the following statement in response to Governor Wolf's budget proposal.

“For almost a year, home health, homecare and hospice personnel have worked to mitigate and respond to COVID-19. They treat and provide services to COVID-19 positive patients and consumers in their homes, have provided emergency staffing for facilities hit hard by the virus, and perhaps most importantly, have kept tens of thousands of vulnerable Pennsylvanians out of hospitals and other facilities.

“Pennsylvania's home-based care providers serve more than 500,000 Pennsylvanians each year. They help the most vulnerable among us, and their services are particularly critical during COVID-19. Despite these facts, they have not been prioritized for PPE, COVID-19 testing, or, until recently, vaccine distribution. They continue to have difficulties in accessing all three and face significantly higher expenses in providing critical care and services.

“Their commitment remains strong, but they are stretched to the limit. Many of them earn less than \$12.00 an hour.

“Home-based care professionals and workers provide support and healthcare to Pennsylvanians in need, and they need support in return.

“Next year's budget must include increased funding and support for home care providers and caregivers, and we urge changes to the current proposal to address the growing needs of Pennsylvania's frontline caregivers, our seniors, and individuals with disabilities. PHA and our members remain committed to working with the administration, legislators, the Departments of Health, Human Services, and Aging, and other stakeholders to ensure that additional funding and supports are in place to support home-based care and keep Pennsylvanians safe and healthy at home.

“There has never been a more important time to support, and adequately fund, care at home. People we love are depending on us.

***About PHA...** The Pennsylvania Homecare Association is a statewide organization of nearly 700 home health, homecare and hospice providers. PHA members provide quality care and serve as advocates for their patients and clients on a variety of healthcare issues. PHA and its members work to improve professional standards and ensure access to quality homecare throughout the Commonwealth. To learn more, visit www.pahomecare.org.*

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