



August 10, 2009

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

It has been more than three years since the General Assembly passed and you signed Act 69 of 2006, to license homecare agencies and homecare registries. The need for licensure was obvious: More and more people want to remain at home as they age and are turning to homecare agencies and registries for assistance with such things as bathing, grooming and transportation. The personal nature of these services that are provided in people's homes and the growing number of homecare agencies prompted our association to advocate and support licensure that would provide consumer protections.

Agencies and consumers recognize and have embraced the need for upholding a standard of care. Yet today, older Pennsylvanians who are receiving in-home care are still without any protections because the regulations to implement licensure have been stalled in your office since 2007.

For several years, your Administration has focused attention on rebalancing the long-term care system. You and others have pledged full support for shifting more emphasis to home and community-based care and our industry commends your efforts in developing a broad continuum of long-term care. However, we can no longer afford to just talk about giving people the help they need to stay at home. The state should not shun its responsibility to protect our senior citizens by ensuring minimal standards for all homecare agencies and registries. The state licenses barbers, manicurists and ATV vehicles. Don't our seniors deserve the same protections? Cost is minimal. In fact, the Department of Health has already hired six surveyors in anticipation of the new licensure regulations.

I once again bring this matter to your attention because September 11 is the deadline for finalizing the next phase of homecare licensure regulations. If the regulations are not submitted and reviewed by House and Senate committees and the Independent Regulatory Review Council by that date, the process of promulgating the regulations must begin over again.

The Pennsylvania Homecare Association anxiously awaits the establishment of licensure. Please don't let this deadline pass, Governor. The safety of our seniors is at stake.

Sincerely,

Vicki M. Hoak  
Executive Director

*Your  
partner in  
bringing care  
home*

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