



Pennsylvania Homecare Association

The eyes of the world are on the United States during this Presidential election, and politics has become increasingly polarized. Pennsylvania is one of the key battleground states, seeing an increase in political advertising and election-related events. In Pennsylvania, much attention has been focused on Presidential politics, but this year is not just about the presidential race. Pennsylvanians will go to the ballot box on November 3rd to vote for President and Congressional Representatives at the federal level, as well as 25 members of the Pennsylvania State Senate and all members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The outcomes of these elections can have a significant impact on home-based care, and at PHA, we are working to ensure that candidates understand the value of homecare, home health and hospice.

PHA invites you to review the positions of the candidates who responded to our home-based care questionnaire to help you become a better-informed voter and make your voice heard this November!

To look up your legislative district by address, please visit our [Legislative Action Center](#).

For additional information about our advocacy work, visit www.pahomecare.org.



2020 Voter Guide

President of the United States

The President is both the head of government of the United States of America and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Under Article II of the Constitution, the President is responsible for the execution and enforcement of the laws created by Congress. The answers provided below were taken from the websites listed and provide a glimpse into each candidate's platform.

Question Posed to Candidates:

The challenges faced by congregate care settings during COVID-19 have only emphasized the critical role of home and community-based services in keeping seniors and those with disabilities safe and healthy in their homes. Not only do the vast majority strongly prefer to receive care in their homes, the average cost of home care is less than half of the cost for nursing facility care (\$52,624 vs. \$116,800). What steps would you take to support any of the following?

- Expanding Medicare to include homecare.
- Expanding access to home and community-based services (including funding), so that individuals at risk of losing their independence due to disability are able to remain in their homes and communities.
- Ending the institutional bias in the Medicaid program to put home and community-based services on equal footing with institutional settings for purposes of Medicaid eligibility.
- Investing in the direct care workforce by promoting career pathways and supporting Medicaid reimbursement levels that support higher wages.



President of the United States

Donald J. Trump (R) – Incumbent



PROTECTING OUR OLDER PEOPLE: President Donald J. Trump is ensuring the safety and well-being of America's seniors during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak.

- President Trump is making sure our senior

citizens remain safe and have resources they need during the coronavirus pandemic.

- In addition to the supplies we have already distributed, FEMA will send supplemental shipments of personal protective equipment to all 15,400 Medicaid and Medicare-certified nursing homes in America.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing States with \$81 million from the CARES Act to increase their inspections of nursing homes at this crucial time.
- New rules require information about COVID-19 cases in nursing homes to be reported directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and testing data to be posted online.
 - The rule requires nursing homes report cases to residents and their family members.
- The Administration is also establishing the Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes.
- The commission will be composed of leading industry experts, doctors and scientists, resident and patient advocates, family members, infection and prevention control specialists, and State and local authorities.

DELIVERING CRUCIAL ASSISTANCE: The President and his Administration are prioritizing seniors and delivering vital assistance to them during this critical time.

- The President released his "Opening Up America Again" guidelines, instructing States to take additional measures to protect the safety of senior citizens and other vulnerable populations.
- President Trump signed historic legislation that provides funding and flexibility for emergency

nutritional aid for vulnerable Americans, including senior citizens.

- At the President's direction, the Administration dramatically expanded Medicare telehealth coverage, allowing beneficiaries to receive healthcare services from the safety of their homes.
- To protect senior citizens, the President directed CMS to prioritize enforcement of infectious disease standards at nursing homes across America.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced nearly \$1 billion in grants to assist older adults and people with disabilities, providing services such as home delivered meals and in-home care services.

PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY CARE: These actions build on President Trump's longstanding commitment to give seniors the best healthcare anywhere in the world.

- President Trump's goal is to ensure older Americans receive the best quality healthcare at the lowest price.
- Last year, the President signed an Executive Order to improve older Americans' healthcare and improve the fiscal sustainability of Medicare.
 - This order empowers older Americans with choice and access, streamlines approval processes, reduces regulatory burdens, and combats waste, fraud, and abuse.
- For the third year in a row, the average basic premium for Medicare Part D prescription drug prices has declined, saving beneficiaries \$1.9 billion in premiums over time.

Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-remains-committed-caring-nations-seniors-coronavirus-pandemic-beyond/>

President of the United States

Joseph R. Biden (D) - Challenger



Joe Biden will:

- Expand access to a broad array of long-term services and supports in local settings, including through closing the gaps in Medicaid for home and community-based services; establish a state innovation

fund for creative, cost effective direct care services.

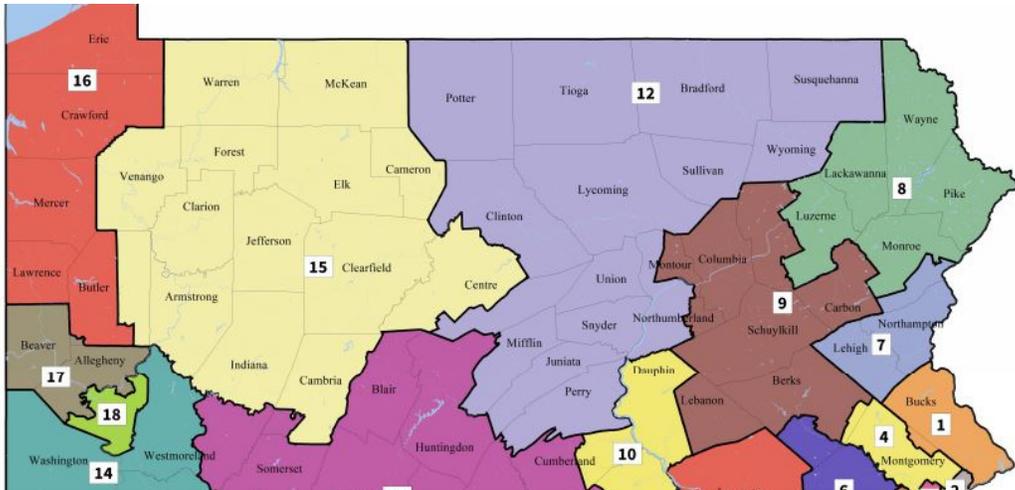
- Treat caregivers and early childhood educators with respect and dignity, and give them the pay and benefits they deserve, training and career ladders to higher-paying jobs, the choice to join a union and bargain collectively, and other fundamental work-related rights and protections.
- The plan will cost \$775 billion over 10 years and will be paid for by rolling back unproductive and unequal tax breaks for real estate investors with incomes over \$400,000 and taking steps to increase tax compliance for high-income earners.
- This plan builds on Biden's proposals to support informal caregivers – family members or loved ones who do this work unpaid, including a \$5,000 tax credit for informal caregivers, Social Security credits for people who care for their loved ones, and professional and peer support for caregivers of wounded, injured, or ill active duty service members and veterans.
- Allocate \$450 billion to give more people the choice to receive care at home or in supportive community situations, or to have that choice for their loved ones. He will help states offer cost-effective options for affordable primary and preventive care, and affordable support services like help with meals, transportation, home safety, and quality day programs for older Americans. This commitment will reduce health expenditures, help more Americans avoid unnecessary and expensive hospitalizations, and result in an expansion of the caregiving and community health workforce by roughly 1.5 million jobs.
- **Eliminate the current waitlist for home and community services under Medicaid.** Approximately 800,000 people are on the waitlist for home and community care under Medicaid. Biden will increase Medicaid funding to states, the District of Columbia, and outlying territories to pay for the full cost of ensuring these 800,000 individuals and families receive long-term services and supports in the most appropriate setting, with

the support of qualified care providers. States will then be given a choice to convert their current home and community-based care services waivers into a new state plan option with an enhanced federal match.

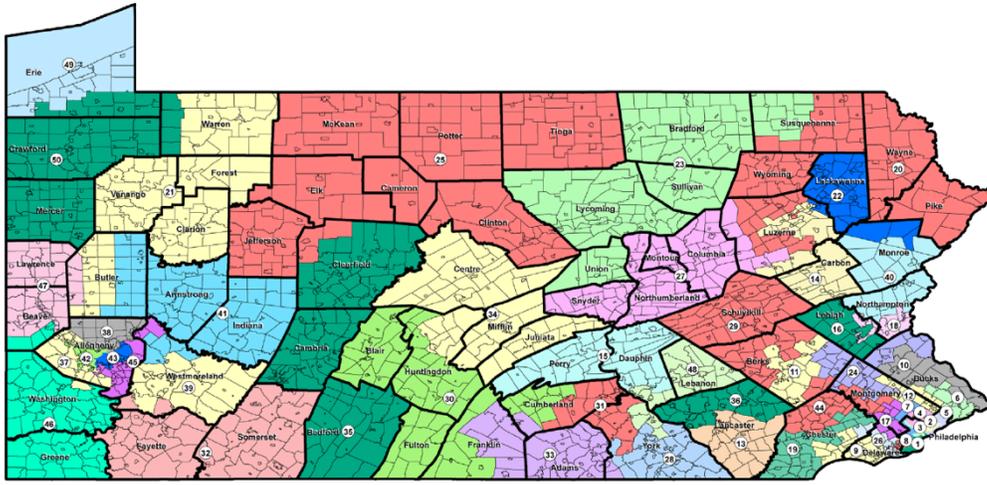
- **Establish a long-term services and supports innovation fund to help expand home- and community-based alternatives to institutional care.** These could include approaches that provide care while allowing individuals to retain independence, such as day programs and respite services that enable unpaid caregivers to work, alternative home and community models that coordinate or directly provide care, and Medicaid buy-in models. For example, the CAPABLE (Community Aging in Place-Advancing Better Living for Elders) Program provides home repairs and modifications to help create safer, more functional home environments for older adults.
- **Increased pay and benefits for caregivers.** Biden will ensure caregivers and early childhood educators receive a raise, and get the pay they deserve, including by setting standards for the funding allocated under this plan. Benefits include affordable health care through their jobs or Biden's new public option, federally-provided paid family and medical leave for up to 12 weeks, up to 7 days of paid sick leave, and affordable child care for their own children.
- **Stronger legal protections and the choice to join a union and collectively bargain.** Biden will work to ensure all workers – including direct support workers and early childhood educators – have an effective, meaningful way to unionize and collectively bargain, whether they work in a center- or home-based setting. He will make it easier to organize by signing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and providing local and state government workers with bargaining rights, fully restoring collective bargaining to federal government workers, and also improving the conditions of many care jobs by signing into law the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights.
- **Training and career ladders.** Biden will expand opportunities for home care workers and early educators to earn needed credentials by investing in high quality training and education programs that lead to a certificate, as well as ongoing, job-embedded training and professional development through programs like labor-management training and registered apprenticeships.

Source: <https://joebiden.com/caregiving/>

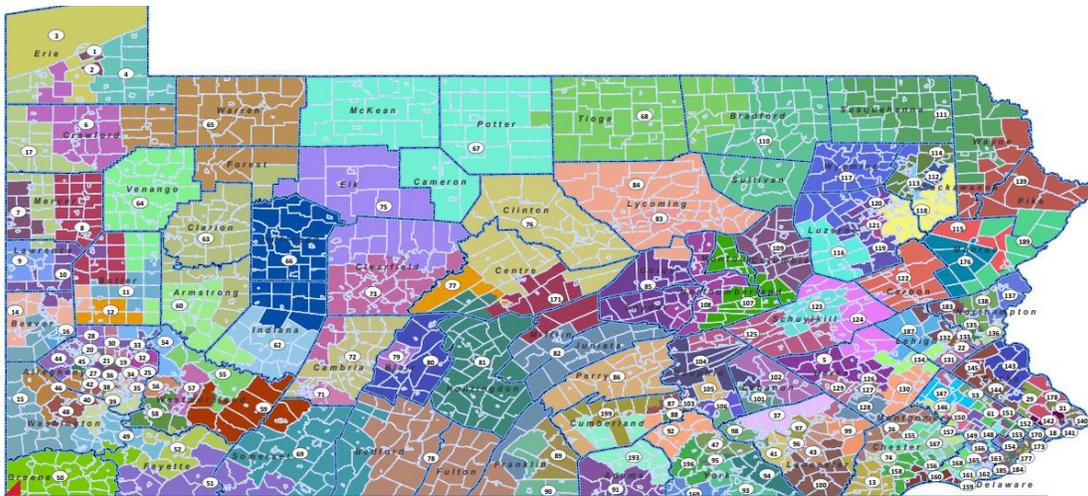
District Maps



U.S. Congressional Districts



Pennsylvania Senate Districts



Pennsylvania House Districts

United States House of Representatives

Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government, is composed of two houses. The upper house is the Senate. The lower house is the House of Representatives. A majority vote by both houses is necessary to pass a law. The U.S. Constitution requires that the House of Representatives be composed of elected Representatives (also called Congressmen or Congresswomen) from each State. There are 435 members of the House of Representatives. The number of Representatives from each state is proportioned according to its population, with 18 Representatives from Pennsylvania. A U.S. Representative must be at least 25 years old, have been a citizen of the United States for the past seven years, and be an inhabitant of the state they represent at the time of the election. All bills must pass the House and Senate and be signed by the President, to become law. The House of Representatives is responsible for creating the budget and initiating bills to collect taxes and other money. The House is also responsible for impeaching federal officials (the Senate then tries the case) and electing the President if there is a tie in the Electoral College.



Question Posed to Candidates:

The challenges faced by congregate care settings during COVID-19 have only emphasized the critical role of home and community-based services in keeping seniors and those with disabilities safe and healthy in their homes. Not only do the vast majority strongly prefer to receive care in their homes, the average cost of home care is less than half of the cost for nursing facility care (\$52,624 vs. \$116,800). What steps would you take to support any of the following?

- Expanding Medicare to include homecare.
- Expanding access to home and community-based services (including funding), so that individuals at risk of losing their independence due to disability are able to remain in their homes and communities.
- Ending the institutional bias in the Medicaid program to put home and community-based services on equal footing with institutional settings for purposes of Medicaid eligibility.
- Investing in the direct care workforce by promoting career pathways and supporting Medicaid reimbursement levels that support higher wages.



Brian Fitzpatrick (R) - Incumbent

1st Congressional District | Counties Served: Bucks & Montgomery

I support efforts to expand coverage for in-home personal care in a cost-effective, evidence-based manner. We must make reforms that promote optimal outcomes while promoting sustainability through a results-oriented and patient centered approach. CMS has expanded In-Home Care as a Medicare Advantage benefit by allowing for supplemental benefits in certain circumstances. As a supporter of Medicare Advantage, this is a win-win for seniors and will provide an additional cost-effective incentive for providers to cover personal care services. I have cosponsored H.R. 2150 the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act,

which would allow nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, and physician assistants to order home health services under Medicare. At the same time, I will continue to oppose arbitrary payment cuts from CMS to home health care services. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2573 the Home Health Payment Innovation Act, which will preserve Medicare beneficiaries' access to home health care services and provide a pathway for innovative approaches to using these services. By basing behavioral adjustments on actual evidence and providing a phase-in for any rate increases or decreases, we can protect Medicare access by avoiding disruptions in patient care.

I support robust funding for Medicaid so that we protect home and community-based services (HCBS) and make sure the federal government invests in a strong FMAP. I support permanently funding the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program, which does incentivize HCBS investment by providing federal funds for transitional services for individuals who choose to leave an institution. Finally, I support investing in the direct care workforce and support Medicaid reimbursement levels that support higher wages. In the hospice and palliative care context, I cosponsored H.R. 647 the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act, which takes concrete steps to bolster education and workforce training to promote career paths.



Christina Finello (D) - Challenger

1st Congressional District | Counties Served: Bucks & Montgomery

I support expanding the ACA to create a non-profit public option that would compete with for-profit insurance companies, so we can bring down the costs of healthcare for everyone. I would additionally support expanding Medicare to include homecare and expanding beneficiaries' access to home and community services. Everyone should have access to quality, affordable healthcare, including homecare. I would fight for this funding and support this community of homecare workers while in Congress.

Additionally, individuals with disabilities deserve to have a variety of options for their care and the choice to live in their homes and to stay in their communities. I also support the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and I would support legislation to make sure it is fully funded and essential protections that have been stripped away are restored.



Brendan Boyle (D) – Incumbent

2nd Congressional District | County Served: Philadelphia

No response received.



David Torres (R) – Challenger

2nd Congressional District | County Served: Philadelphia

No response received.



Dwight Evans (D) – Incumbent

3rd Congressional District | County Served: Philadelphia

Health care is one of the most important, most personal issues the government oversees. One of bills that I am proud to champion in Congress has been the Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act. The Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act (H.R. 4468) would allow nursing homes that have been forced to suspend in-house CNA education programs after receiving a The Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act will help address critical shortages of CNAs, especially in rural areas, by allowing nursing homes to resume CNA education programs faster. This legislation ensures nursing homes continue to meet high standards without

losing staffing levels that are needed for quality care.

In-house CNA education at nursing homes is often free to the CNA candidate, allowing students to avoid the burden of paying for an education program at a local community college or school which may or may not exist in their geographic area. This helps meet the need for CNAs while allowing nursing homes to build their own pipelines of skilled nursing staff.

The Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act would allow suspensions on in-house CNA education to be rescinded once deficiencies are assessed and found to be remedied, while allowing for additional oversight of facilities not exceeding the original two years.



Michael Harvey (R) - Challenger

3rd Congressional District | County Served: Philadelphia

It is my understanding that Medicare does include homecare provided the homecare required is: doctor prescribed, part-time skilled nursing, given by a Medicare approved agency and received by the patient who is confined due to his/her medical condition and provided the prescribing doctor and Medicare approved agency cooperate in the set-up of a care plan. I would not expand that feature any further as it is vital to have the patient's doctor involved in the care even when the setting of care is in the patient's home.

I would consider expanding access to home and community-based services for any patient at risk of losing his/her independence due to disability if both the patient's doctor and a Medicare approved agency cooperate in creating a plan that couples fundamental independence activities and medical attendance as long as such access both prolongs the patient's independence and saves money by extending the patient's independence.

While each State may alter certain Medicaid services, generally, Medicaid is the safety net healthcare program for people with low incomes and for people who spend down their assets due to high healthcare expenses or who exhaust their LTC benefits and have spent down their assets. In Pennsylvania, Medicaid provides a variety of benefits to any person who qualifies. What it excludes are certain elective procedures and various non-critical services. So, as to Medicaid in Pennsylvania, home and community-based services are on equal footing with institutional settings.

Investment in the direct care workforce by promoting career pathways is, indeed, advisable. One way to promote career pathways in the direct care profession is to emphasize the STEM curriculum from 5th grade through 12th grade. This will serve to make potential professionals in the direct care profession comfortable with the essential concepts and standards used in the profession. If a certain percentage of the revenues that fund Medicare is placed in safe but high yield investments then the financial returns would support higher wages for direct care professionals.



Madeleine Dean (D) – Incumbent

4th Congressional District | Counties Served: Berks & Montgomery

We must ensure the right of every American to live, work and age in where they choose — including in their homes. Since starting in Congress, I have worked with my colleagues in a collaborative way to ensure that everyone, regardless of disability or age, is able to live the life they choose. To that end, I support expanding Medicare coverage to include home care, expanding funding and thereby access to community and home based services, and investing to support our highly qualified and dedicated home healthcare workforce. Finally, I agree that the current structure in the Medicaid program—which often leaves out coverage

for home healthcare options—needs to be reviewed as we continue to see more people choosing to grow and age at home. Too often our current healthcare system leaves people out, and we must work to ensure coverage is expanded to all forms of quality care.

COVID-19 has burdened everyone and hurt families across our nation. But out of this downturn, home healthcare has proven to be a bright spot. Through dedication and innovation you have continued to care for others, supporting them not only physically but emotionally and mentally. I pledge to continue to support your important work by fighting in Congress for increased funds, flexibilities where necessary to increase care, and support for those you are caring for. You are our heroes and deserving of increased support—I will continue to be your advocate in Congress.



Kathy Barnette (R) – Challenger

4th Congressional District | Counties Served: Berks & Montgomery

No response received.



Mary Gay Scanlon (D) – Incumbent

5th Congressional District | Counties Served: Delaware, Montgomery & Philadelphia

I enthusiastically support all of the above policy proposals, and if reelected to Congress, I will fight to enact them into law.

I recently led a group of members of the Pennsylvania Delegation to express concern over how the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are choosing to allocate the first \$30 billion of the Public Health and Social Services Relief Fund created under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. One of my main concerns was that by allocating funding solely based on Medicare claims, the administration is unfairly disadvantaging safety-net hospitals, nursing homes, home care providers, and health centers that serve our most at-risk constituents and are funded through Medicaid.

I also introduced H.R.5443 - The Isaiah Baker and Margie Harris-Austin Act in December 2019. The bill would allow state Medicaid programs to cover home and community-based services that are also provided in institutional settings, so that people who wish to remain in their homes and communities have the ability to financially do so.

I am also a cosponsor of H.R.647 - The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act, which would improve the quality of education for healthcare professionals and would increase funding for the organizations that operate palliative care and hospice education centers.



Dasha Pruett (R) – Challenger

5th Congressional District | Counties Served: Delaware, Montgomery & Philadelphia

No response received.

United States House of Representatives



Chrissy Houlahan (D) – Incumbent

6th Congressional District | Counties Served: Berks & Chester

No response received.



John Emmons (R) – Challenger

6th Congressional District | Counties Served: Berks & Chester

With regard to expanding Medicare to include homecare, expanding access to home and community-based services and ending the institutional bias in the Medicaid program to put home and community-based services on equal footing with institutional setting.

I would work with key stakeholders, looking at the current system and details of changes needed, to develop a viable option that results in enhanced care at a lower cost to both individuals and the government.



Susan Wild (D) – Incumbent

7th Congressional District | Counties Served: Lehigh, Northampton & Monroe

No response received.



Lisa Scheller (R) – Challenger

7th Congressional District | Counties Served: Lehigh, Northampton & Monroe

No response received.

United States House of Representatives



Matt Cartwright (D) – Incumbent

8th Congressional District | Counties Served: Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike & Wayne

The Supreme Court held in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that the unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities in institutions violates the ADA. *Olmstead* concluded that the ADA meant community-based services should be available when deemed appropriate by health care professionals, when desired by the individual, and when the request can be accommodated. Twenty-one years later, more must be done to remove institutional bias and ensure the availability of home- and community-based

services as an alternative to nursing homes and other institutional settings. That's why I am a proud cosponsor of the Disability Integration Act, legislation which would prohibit government entities and insurance providers from denying community-based services to individuals with disabilities that require long-term service or support that would enable such individuals to live in the community and lead an independent life. For as long as I am in Congress, I will continue to support this, and similar efforts, to ensure that individuals with disabilities are able to remain in their homes and communities.

Direct care workers provide an estimated 70-80% of the paid, hands-on, long-term care and personal assistance received by older adults in the United States. Yet wages for these workers remain persistently low, and few programs exist to provide direct care workers with the advanced training necessary to take on increased responsibilities. That's why I have proudly sponsored, and will continue to sponsor, the Improving Care for Vulnerable Older Citizens Through Workforce Advancement Act. This legislation would establish demonstration projects to test models of care that use direct care workers in advanced roles.



Jim Bognet (R) – Challenger

8th Congressional District | Counties Served: Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike & Wayne

No response received.



Dan Meuser (R) – Incumbent

9th Congressional District | Counties Served: Berks, Carbon, Columbia, Lebanon, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland & Schuylkill

No response received.



Gary Wegman (D) – Challenger

9th Congressional District | Counties Served: Berks, Carbon, Columbia, Lebanon, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland & Schuylkill

This past April, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) added new supplemental benefits to Medicare Advantage (MA), including benefits for non-medical in-home care. However, the wording of this policy is vague, so many MA plans do not include homecare even though they are able to. I will push for a more concrete definition of these benefits to include homecare for all Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans. I will also support H.R. 2150 to allow Medicare payment for home health services that are ordered by healthcare professionals other than physicians. I will vote for H.R. 2573, which allows the home-confinement requirement for home health services to be waived under Medicare and MA, and tweaks the payment methodology such that behavioral assumptions are removed from the requirements.

As a 37-year medical professional, I also support a 50-state single-payer system where doctors, hospitals, and other healthcare providers “compete” in the private marketplace for our public dollars. This will allow us to invest in the direct care workforce, as more people will be able to afford healthcare and take advantage of home health services under this plan.

Finally, I will vote to pass H.R. 647, which allocates funding for the HHS to provide support for palliative care and hospice education centers. This will invest in the direct care workforce and increase knowledge of palliative care amongst medical professionals and the general public.



Scott Perry (R) – Incumbent

10th Congressional District | Counties Served: Cumberland, Dauphin & York

No response received.



Eugene DePasquale (D) – Challenger

10th Congressional District | Counties Served: Cumberland, Dauphin & York

No response received.

United States House of Representatives



Lloyd Smucker (R) – Incumbent

11th Congressional District | Counties Served: Lancaster & York

No response received.



Sarah Hammond (D) – Challenger

11th Congressional District | Counties Served: Lancaster & York

I strongly believe that the United States of America owes it to our citizens to ensure that every single person has comprehensive, accessible healthcare coverage. This means ensuring that every potential need from birth through end-of-life care is covered without bank-breaking copays or deductibles. Healthcare and particularly access to homecare and support is an important issue to every person of every age, whether taking care of an aging parent, a disability that requires extra care, or weighing your options for home beginning and end-of-life care.

That's why we've focused our campaign on fighting to restructure our healthcare system into a universal single-payer healthcare system that provides guaranteed coverage for every person. This would include access to homecare and community-based services that can help you or your loved ones receive the best care in the healthiest environment for you, without forcing you to sacrifice your savings and social security to do so. While I understand that we do not currently have a universal healthcare system in place, I am committed to fighting to ensure that Medicare funding and accessibility is expanded to cover home health, home care, and hospitality needs. COVID-19 has emphasized the critical role that access to homecare and caregivers provide, particularly in ensuring that no one is left behind in nationally trying times.

That's why I am committed to standing to expand Medicare should include and equally funded homecare, access to home and community based services, ending the institutional bias in the Medicaid program to put home and community-based services on equal footing with institutional settings for purposes of Medicaid eligibility, and fighting for caregivers to receive a better living wage. The investments we make into our healthcare should always come back to cover us, and that's what I'm committed to advocating for in Congress.



Fred Keller (R) – Incumbent

12th Congressional District | Counties Served: Bradford, Centre, Clinton, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union & Wyoming

No response received.

United States House of Representatives



Lee Griffin (D) – Challenger

12th Congressional District | Counties Served: Bradford, Centre, Clinton, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union & Wyoming

No response received.



John Joyce (R) – Incumbent

13th Congressional District | Counties Served: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset & Westmoreland

No response received.



Todd Rowley (D) – Challenger

13th Congressional District | Counties Served: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset & Westmoreland

As a member of Congress, I will protect and strengthen Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Our citizens are working and living longer requiring that our society ensures that our seniors receive the health care, home care and hospice services they deserve. I believe that health care is a basic human right and that every Pennsylvanian and American citizen should have access to affordable, quality health care coverage, including home health care, home care and hospice services. I support federal funding for the expansion of Medicare (Part A) and Medicaid coverage for home health care, home care and hospice care services, especially for the most vulnerable in our society – seniors, adults with disabilities and children with life-altering health conditions.

I support funding for programs that enhance the home health care and home care services to allow individuals, particularly citizens with disabilities to retain a level of independence and high-quality standard of living while residing in their communities. We must end the institutional bias in the Medicaid program that negatively impacts people with disabilities who rely upon Medicaid for needed services. It is through the long-term services and supports (LTSS) and home and community-based services (HCBS) that helps disabled citizens live at home and remain in their communities. I support the federal government enhanced funding to state's Medicaid programs so that these vital services considered a right for people in institutions is also a right for disabled people living in communities. I support investing in the home health care and home care workforce through Medicaid expansion and reimbursement funding to provide higher wages and benefits, access to training opportunities, and availability to safety protection equipment and improved work conditions. Our country faces a crisis in the coming years with an increased demand for home care services, and the challenges with attracting and recruiting workers to provide these services. As a member of Congress, I will work in a bipartisan manner to address this critically important issue facing our country.



Guy Reschenthaler (R) – Incumbent

14th Congressional District | Counties Served: Fayette, Greene, Washington & Westmoreland

No response received.



Bill Marx (D) – Challenger

14th Congressional District | Counties Served: Fayette, Greene, Washington & Westmoreland

No response received.



Glenn "GT" Thompson (R) – Incumbent

15th Congressional District | Counties Served: Armstrong, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, McKean, Venango & Warren

As a former therapist, rehabilitation services manager, and licensed nursing home administrator who spent nearly 30 years in non-profit healthcare prior to being elected to Congress, I am acutely aware of the challenges before older Americans and those facing life changing disease and disability. These challenges are perhaps more present in Pennsylvania, where nearly 20% of the commonwealth's population will soon be over the age of 65.

One of the initial steps Congress can take to expand Medicare to include Home Health is to pass Home Health Payment Innovation Act of 2019 (H.R. 2873), which I have been proud to cosponsor. The bill will waive the homebound requirement for home health to be reimbursed.

As co-chairman of the bipartisan House Career & Technical Education, I have championed the modernization of skills based learning, which helps train for careers in home health, hospice, and a number of other careers throughout the industry. We must ensure a future with a highly skilled workforce to care for those who choose to receive care in a home setting.

Recognizing the budgetary constraints on Medicare and the fact that 10,000 baby boomers are enrolling everyday — and will for the next 12 years — it is essential to find ways to innovate for prolonged solvency of the program and for the health of the beneficiary.

Glenn "GT" Thompson (R) – Incumbent (Continued)

We must continue to focus efforts on compliance with the beneficiary's medical plan and encourage community-based approaches and best practices into chronic care management. Technology will play an increasing role in this approach, which can create cost savings that could be rolled back into the program.

These are big hurdles, but I have remained committed to sharing my life experiences with my colleagues in Congress who do not have a background in healthcare. There is an old saying in Washington, "if you are not at the table, you are probably on the menu." This is why continued advocacy from those who have "lived it," is so important. This is how we create effective public policy. My door is always open and I look forward to continuing to advocate for the industry and its patients.



Robert Williams (D)– Challenger

15th Congressional District | Counties Served: Armstrong, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, McKean, Venango & Warren

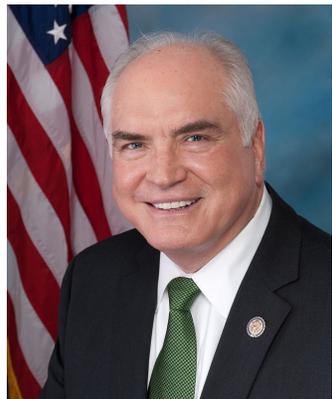
I believe that Medicare coverage should include a plan for home health care and that any family that is willing to care for their loved ones in home should also qualify for tax benefits.

Question number two, is an issue that has to be addressed at the local level. The local communities working along with State and Federal agencies can work together to keep

families together.

I cannot give an informed answer to this question, without delving more into it.

Across the board, healthcare workers and their partners need to be paid a 'living wage', provided with mandatory counseling, and they must have paid training.



Mike Kelly (R) – Incumbent

16th Congressional District | Counties Served: Butler, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, & Mercer

No response received.



Kristy Gnibus (D) – Challenger

16th Congressional District | Counties Served: Butler, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, & Mercer

I would fully support expanding Medicare insurance to be more comprehensive, including coverage for homecare and mental health.

As a cancer survivor, who qualifies as having a pre-existing condition, we must guarantee that everyone has access to quality, affordable healthcare. No one should be scared that losing their job means losing their insurance, or that they will be kicked off of their insurance due to illness. We should include in these provisions protections that expand services to allow individuals to remain in their homes.

As more and more of our population grows older and is also living longer, we must figure out the most effective way to deliver care to everyone who needs it. I fully support giving a larger role to home and community-based services and ending biases in current Medicaid plans.

I'm a public school teacher, education is one of my biggest priorities. I am a fierce advocate for vocation and skills-based education. I think we should do more to encourage people to start careers in the healthcare industry.



Connor Lamb (D) – Incumbent

17th Congressional District | Counties Served: Allegheny, Beaver & Butler

No response received.



Sean Parnell (R) – Challenger

17th Congressional District | Counties Served: Allegheny, Beaver & Butler

No response received.

United States House of Representatives



Mike Doyle (D) – Incumbent

18th Congressional District | Counties Served: Allegheny

I feel strongly that older Americans, families, and communities benefit when individuals can make health care and living decisions that are best for them. For many seniors – and individuals with disabilities – that means staying at home for as long as they are able. Unfortunately, our system is set up to push individuals into expensive nursing facilities which end up costing families and the American taxpayer. I would like to see that change. I am a cosponsor of Representative Schakowsky’s resolution to enact an Older Americans Bill of Rights, which lays out guiding principles for improving seniors’ health and wellbeing. These include expanding Medicare and Medicaid benefits, aging in place, and supporting caregivers and the direct care workforce. Especially in light of COVID-19, I plan to build upon these principles to ensure that older Americans have the option to stay home and healthy.

During CARES Act negotiations, I pushed Leadership to include more funding for Home and Community-Based Services. I was pleased with the \$200 million allocation, and additional funding for support services – like meal delivery and caregiver supports. I plan to use this momentum to push for higher permanent funding levels in the 117th Congress, and as a cosponsor of the EMPOWER Act, to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person Program. I would also like to expand Medicare benefits to cover homecare for all aging Americans. Finally, COVID has raised awareness about the heroic work that direct care professionals do every day. As we work to support other healthcare professionals, we need to ensure that direct care professionals can earn a competitive, living wage and build up the workforce through innovative recruitment programs.

I believe we have an opportunity to tackle challenges associated with long-term care, allowing more seniors to age with dignity – and just a little help – at home.



Luke Negron (R) – Challenger

18th Congressional District | Counties Served: Allegheny

No response received.



State Senate of Pennsylvania

Every two years, half of the 50 Senate seats (this year odd districts) are up for election. The outcomes of the 2020 election cycle in Pennsylvania stand to influence the state's redistricting process following the 2020 census. In Pennsylvania, the state legislature is responsible for congressional redistricting, subject to gubernatorial veto. State legislative district maps are drawn by a commission.

Question Posed to Candidates:

The challenges faced by congregate care settings during COVID-19 have only emphasized the critical role of home and community-based services in keeping seniors and those with disabilities safe and healthy in their homes. Not only do the vast majority strongly prefer to receive care in their homes, the average cost of home care is less than half of the cost for nursing facility care (\$52,624 vs. \$116,800). What steps would you take to support any of the following?

- Expanding access to home and community-based services (including funding), so that individuals at risk of losing their independence due to disability are able to remain in their homes and communities.
- Ending the institutional bias in the Medicaid program to put home and community-based services on equal footing with institutional settings for purposes of Medicaid eligibility.
- Investing in the direct care workforce by promoting career pathways and supporting Medicaid reimbursement levels that support higher wages.



State Senate of Pennsylvania



Nikil Saval (D) – Open Seat (Unopposed)

1st Senatorial District | County Served: Philadelphia

No response received.



Sharif Street (D) – Incumbent (Unopposed)

3rd Senatorial District | County Served: Philadelphia

Access to healthcare is a human right. All Pennsylvanians deserve safe and easy access to quality, affordable healthcare, from prenatal to end-of-life care, whether they live in a big city or in a rural community. I believe we should provide greater opportunities for seniors to receive healthcare in their own homes rather than being forced into nursing homes. I am a prime sponsor of SB277: Deemed Eligibility for In-Home Care which would fundamentally reshape how a significant number of individuals are able to access home-

based services without losing their independence. It will allow for seniors to access longer-term services and a support system to allow them to stay healthy at home and avoid otherwise (costly) institutional care. Since there are also certain biases that exist in Medicaid programs, this bill would also allow for providers to use their own discretion to access care while Medicaid eligibility is processed. This would be a major step to allow in-home care services to begin months before currently possible, preventing more expensive and less rewarding institutional care compared to in-home services.



John Sabatina Jr. (D) – Incumbent (Unopposed)

5th Senatorial District | County Served: Philadelphia

No response received.



Vincent Hughes (D) – Incumbent (Unopposed)

7th Senatorial District | County Served: Philadelphia

No response received.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



Tom Killion (R) – Incumbent

9th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Chester & Delaware

I support and would vote for increased funding for home and community-based services. People should not be forced out of their homes and communities due to health concerns.

I support ending the institutional bias in the Medicaid program to put home and community-based services on equal footing with institutional settings for purposes of Medicaid eligibility.

I support investing in direct care workforce by promoting career pathways and supporting Medicaid reimbursement levels that support higher wages. I recently voted to increase the minimum wage and believe it should be increased to \$15 an hour.



John Kane (D) – Challenger

9th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Chester & Delaware

No response received.



Judy Schwank (D) – Incumbent

11th Senatorial District | County Served: Berks

Today older individuals and their loved ones have very different concerns and expectations about aging than previous generations. People are living longer lives and they prefer to be independent and stay in their own homes as they age. Even people who have health issues would prefer to remain at home but often time, without an adequate home care plan, their health may decline rapidly, or they may end up in a care facility against their wishes. As a state legislator I have learned from my constituents that it is far

better for the well-being and health of the people we serve and much less expensive to allow people to remain in their homes for as long as possible. A stronger home care network or system would make this more of a reality for our seniors.

To that end I support and will vote for: a higher Medicaid rate increase for the agencies that offer home care, increased investment in the waiver program so more people can receive in home care, higher wages for home health care workers providing them with a living wage that compensates them adequately for their work.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



Annette Baker (R) – Challenger

11th Senatorial District | County Served: Berks

Being able to stay at home and receive medical care is vitally important to seniors and those with disabilities. There is nothing quite like being at home when not feeling well or when dealing with persistent medical issues. Just being in familiar surroundings brings a level of comfort that helps with the healing process. I will support finding innovative, cost-saving measures to provide in-home services for those who need them. Where possible, individuals who would like to stay in their homes should be encouraged to do so. If we can

change the system to make it work better for them, I will help to make that happen. Education is a critical part of my platform. I would encourage individuals who are interested in providing in-home care to pursue those areas of training. There is a growing need for additional personnel to provide a variety of services. During these difficult times and in the future, it seems the desire for these services will only increase.



Scott Martin (R) – Incumbent

13th Senatorial District | County Served: Lancaster

I share the goals of the Pa Homecare Association to better support home and community-based care options for the people of Pennsylvania and believe there are several steps we can take to help make this a reality.

To start, we can address funding – particularly in programs like Medicaid – to treat home and community-based care more equally with facility care. As Senator, I have worked to cut waste from Medicaid so that there are more dollars available to support all services, including home care.

I believe we should better promote home and community-based care options to the general public as a reasonable, safe and dignified option to facility care. By growing demand for these services, we can also build a vocal public demand to legislators to change policies in a way that helps the home care movement.

Finally, I believe that we must address the shortage of medical professionals (particularly nurses) that continues to hinder Pennsylvania's medical and care communities. I support ideas like tuition tax credits to help do this.



Janet Diaz (D) – Challenger

13th Senatorial District | County Served: Lancaster

I am supportive of this position. My mother was a nurses' aid in a nursing home. When I was younger, I spent holidays in nursing homes because that's how I could spend time with my family. Still today, I visit and spend time with elderly individuals in nursing homes and homecare settings. I believe that individuals should have robust options to age in place. For individuals with disabilities, we must ensure they have the same access and options to remain in their homes and communities as they age.

I would be supportive of legislation that would expand access and affordability of home and community-based services including putting these services on the same level with institutional settings.

State Senate of Pennsylvania

Janet Diaz (D) – Challenger (Continued)

After struggling to find a job due to her language abilities, my mother found a job as nurses' aid at a nursing home at \$3.35/hour which was minimum wage at the time. We struggled to survive on such a low wage. We need to increase wages for all workers including home care providers. I am also supportive of investing and promoting educational opportunities to provide pathways to career opportunities in the industry.

My mother currently works part time in homecare so I have a personal connection to the issues and legislation your association is advancing.



John DiSanto (R) – Incumbent

15th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Dauphin & Perry

As a son who has recent experience with aging parents and the difficulties of maintaining quality home care and as former chair of the Senate Aging & Youth Committee, I understand probably better than most the challenges for seniors seeking to remain in their homes and for the home care agencies and employees struggling to meet their needs, especially as COVID-19 has increased risks for our most vulnerable citizens.

I fully recognize the economic and social benefits of allowing seniors and those with disabilities to remain in their family home or apartment if that is their choice, and I have a proven record of supporting policies that give them this option. Last year I advocated for and achieved a Medicaid rate increase for personal assistance services in the state budget, supporting higher wages for and helping address the shortage of direct care workers.

As COVID-19 threatened our most vulnerable populations and those who care for them, I supported the creation of a hazard pay grant program to give \$50 million in pay increases to essential workers, and, given the initial demand, we are evaluating allocating more Federal CARES Act dollars to this purpose. We also continue to explore how we can help home care agencies and workers source and defray the cost of the additional personal protective equipment recommended during the pandemic.

The state has recently created a Direct Care Worker Training Grant that is intended to implement effective training programs to improve the quality of care provided by direct care workers and build career pathways that result in family-sustaining wages.

I will continue to support policies and programs like these which serve to expand access to home and community-based services and promote opportunities for quality employees to enter and remain in direct care roles.



George Scott (D) – Challenger

15th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Dauphin & Perry

While serving as a pastor over the past 10 years, I have visited many people in our local community who were receiving homecare services. My mother also utilized in-home health care services, so I personally understand the value of homecare.

The vast majority of seniors prefer to remain in their own homes as they age, and that is often the most cost-effective way to deliver care as well. Unfortunately, outdated laws

State Senate of Pennsylvania

George Scott (D) – Challenger (Continued)

currently prevent many older Pennsylvanians from accessing or keeping the homecare services they need. As a state senator, I will work to expand and protect the availability of homecare services and give seniors the option to remain in their own homes if they choose.

I support increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate for homecare services, which would enable providers to expand the availability of the services they provide to seniors who want to remain in their homes. This proposal would save state Medicaid dollars in the long-term because, even with an increased reimbursement rate, homecare is often less expensive than the cost of a nursing home.

I also support expanding Medicaid presumptive eligibility to home-based care. Presumptive eligibility allows county assistance offices to evaluate seniors' financial eligibility for Medicaid before the state paperwork is officially processed. This procedure is already used when determining Medicaid eligibility for nursing homes because the state application takes six months to process. By applying the same practice to eligibility for homecare, Pennsylvania could save Medicaid dollars by avoiding unnecessary nursing home stays, and seniors could choose to remain in their homes.

Unfortunately, not everyone looks for these types of win-win scenarios, and my opponent has proposed cutting state homecare funding by 10%. As your state senator, I will ensure providers have the resources they need to deliver the care that our seniors deserve.



Amanda Cappelletti (D) – Open Seat

17th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Delaware & Montgomery

No response received.



Ellen Fisher (R) – Open Seat

17th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Delaware & Montgomery

I would support legislation that would include having a choice of rehabbing at home or in a facility paid for by your insurance carrier, whether it be Medicaid, Medicare or private care.

Medicaid reimbursement levels need to be reviewed and adjusted to reflect new costs.

These fees haven't been adjusted for over eight years.



Carolyn Comitta (D) – Open Seat

19th Senatorial District | County Served: Chester

No response received.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



Kevin Runey (R) – Open Seat

19th Senatorial District | County Served: Chester

No response received.



Scott Hutchinson (R) – Incumbent

21st Senatorial District | Counties Served: Butler, Clarion, Forest, Venango & Warren

No response received.



Shelbie Stromyer (D) – Challenger

21st Senatorial District | Counties Served: Butler, Clarion, Forest, Venango & Warren

No response received.



Gene Yaw (R) – Incumbent

23rd Senatorial District | Counties Served: Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna & Union

No response received.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



Jackie Baker (D) – Challenger

23rd Senatorial District | Counties Served: Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna & Union

No response received.



Margie Brown (D) – Open Seat

25th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Cameron, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter & Tioga

It is important to ensure care for all who need it, and it is increasingly obvious that home-based and community-based services are high quality, low cost options that may be likely to be in patients' best interests. With less than half the cost, Medicaid and other programs should apply to these services, and new streams of funding specifically for workforce training should be budgeted to improve quality of care and wages to ensure the continuum of care for those who need it. End-of-life care, or hospice, should be available in the setting the patients and their families prefer. This can be extremely important for an elderly spouse who would otherwise not be able to be in a remote location to spend time with their loved one at hospice.



Cris Dush (R) – Open Seat

25th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Cameron, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter & Tioga

No response received.



John Gordner (R) – Incumbent

27th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Columbia, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland & Snyder

No response received.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



Michelle Siegel (D) – Challenger

27th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Columbia, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland & Snyder

I support the Pennsylvania Homecare Association's call to establish a statewide PAS rate to \$20.58 per hour and increasing reimbursement for HCBS waivers by ten percent. As your organization has stated, this would ensure that home health agencies have enough funds to cover the costs of operations and compensation for employees. I understand that under current rates most agencies are losing money by treating patients within the home. Given

that home-based care is half the cost of a nursing facility, raising these rates would still mean that home health is a less expensive option. I also support the newly implemented CommunityHealth Choices program, which was fully implemented in January, 2020. Dual enrollment in Medicare and Medicaid, along with the coordination of benefits in both programs, is long overdue. I believe that this program will not only increase accessibility, but will also raise the efficiency and quality of care by allowing patients to simultaneously access benefits from both programs. Senator Michele Brooks has also proposed legislation, which I would support, to ensure that Medicare Part B benefits will not be counted as part of a senior's income.

I firmly believe that the mark of a twenty-first century healthcare system is the ability to choose the best care option for you and your family. For many in need of long-term nursing care or hospice, this will mean establishing care at home. Evidence has shown that at-home care is beneficial to the patient as well as state budgets. So, I do agree with the Pennsylvania Homecare Association that we must revise the presumptive care requirement in Medicaid. It does not make any sense that the more expensive care option is made more readily accessible by outdated regulatory standards. Patients choosing at home care should be allowed to establish and access that care while county assistance officers process their paperwork. As the Boomer generation continues to age, there is no way that the state can afford financially or logistically to have every patient enter a nursing home facility, or for the care approval process to continue to be so burdensome. The current pandemic has also highlighted existing obstacles to home healthcare. Many families who wished to move their loved one from a facility to home care faced an ordeal of paperwork and severe delays.

As an individual who relies on home health services, I know firsthand the benefit and convenience of such care. I firmly believe that more seniors and patients with disabilities should be able to maintain their independence and comfort through care within their own home.

I believe that investment in home health service workers is vitally important. The 27th District is a state senatorial district that trends older—over forty. As the baby boomer generation ages, the need for home healthcare workers will only grow. As the CHC shifts care out of nursing facilities and into the home, we must make sure that these agencies are not financially hindered by low reimbursement rates. I fully support increasing the reimbursement rate for HCBS waivers by ten percent so that agencies may cover their expenses, raise salaries, and increase benefits. We must do what we can to encourage young people to enter the profession. My Rural Bill of Rights platform calls for a livable wage and worker protections, as does the Workers' Bill of Rights. I was shocked to learn from your organization's site that the average home healthcare worker makes ten dollars an hour. This hourly rate is not nearly enough to sustain a middle-class family or to encourage young people to enter the profession. I support the Pennsylvania Homecare Association's call to raise the hourly PAS rate to \$20.58. I also support a student loan forgiveness program similar to the one that, until recently, existed for nurses, and which sadly republicans voted to end.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



David Argall (R) – Incumbent (Unopposed)

29th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Berks & Schuylkill

No response received.



Mike Regan (R) – Incumbent

31st Senatorial District | Counties Served: Cumberland & York

I am proud to say that the Pennsylvania Homecare Association calls the 31st Senate District home and that I have had the opportunity to meet amazing professionals who truly put their patients first. Pennsylvania Homecare providers and their employees offer a vital service to thousands of seniors and those with disabilities across the state. They are frontline direct care workers who are the very best of people we have serving in the Commonwealth and the recent pandemic has highlighted just how important they are to so many Pennsylvanians in need. I have always supported funding for these crucial services and plan to moving forward this session and in the future. Home services allow the elderly to stay in the comfort of their homes and by expanding access to care and funding we can keep more people safe, independent, and involved in their communities where they raised their families. It's so important that this option continues to grow as it is cost efficient, and most importantly, people live longer, healthier, and better lives. I've worked on policy initiatives over the years with former, long-time CEO, Vicki Hoak and legislative staff to carry out these goals of keeping people in their residences and have visited constituents in my district whose lives depend on this care. I look forward to advocating for expanded services and funding with PHA and their membership.



Shanna Danielson (D) – Challenger

31st Senatorial District | Counties Served: Cumberland & York

I believe these services are vital for seniors and those with medical conditions that make it difficult to live fully independently. While I need more information on how these services are currently supported by our commonwealth, I believe in strengthening these programs and broadening eligibility.

Many people would prefer to stay in their homes rather than relocate, and we should allow people that option. I am in favor of this.

My entire platform focuses on making life better for working families, investing in public, higher, early, and continuing education, and ensuring workers earn a living wage. I am definitely in favor of this and will fight for workers to ensure they are earning a living wage and given opportunities to further their training and education.

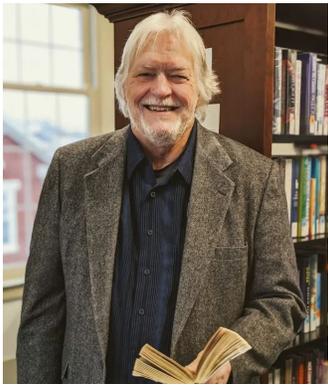
State Senate of Pennsylvania



Doug Mastriano (R) – Incumbent

33rd Senatorial District | Counties Served: Adams, Cumberland, Franklin & York

No response received.



Richard Sterner (D) – Challenger

33rd Senatorial District | Counties Served: Adams, Cumberland, Franklin & York

No response received.



Wayne Langerholc (R) – Incumbent

35th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Bedford, Cambria & Clearfield

No response received.



Shaun Dougherty (D) – Challenger

35th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Bedford, Cambria & Clearfield

No response received.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



Pam Iovino (D) – Incumbent

37th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Allegheny & Washington

No response received.



Devlin Robinson (R) – Challenger

37th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Allegheny & Washington

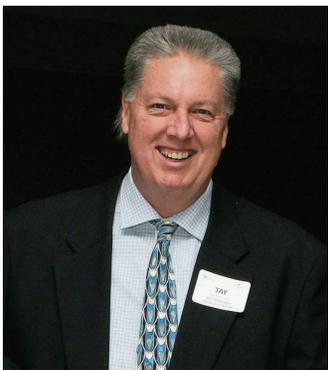
No response received.



Kim Ward (R) – Incumbent

39th Senatorial District | County Served: Westmoreland

No response received.



Tay Waltenbaugh (D) – Challenger

39th Senatorial District | County Served: Westmoreland

The first thing I would do would be to reach out to a deep and diverse group of individuals in various disability communities to hear their concerns and experiences and listen to their ideas on how to solve the problems they're facing. No one should lose their independence because of a disability or for any other reason.

Although I am an advocate, this is certainly not my area of expertise so the important conversations would absolutely have to come first. My next step would be to join or build a steering committee whose mission would be to make research, plan, author and propose legislation and find the funding to address disparities not addressed by the ADA.

There is a basic human rights aspect to this issue. When any one group is devalued devalued both explicitly and

State Senate of Pennsylvania

Tay Waltenbaugh (D) – Challenger (Continued)

implicitly, there is a deep and lasting cultural impact. I would propose legislation to level the playing field for all. Period. By taking a stand and fighting for parity, the conversation may shift. I certainly would not, however, lead this charge alone. I would look to and defer to experts to lead the way and I would amplify their voices and champion their cause.

The fact that direct care workers and workers in related fields are not fairly compensated is despicable and accounts for work related exhaustion, burn out and high turnover. No one but agencies and insurance companies win when workers are underpaid. This is a systemic problem and is linked to our ongoing fight for a living wage for all workers and commensurate wages and benefits for skilled workers. We need to look to our labor organizations and the power of collective bargaining while working to ensure those who need care are not made to suffer. I can't even believe we need to have this fight. Where have our politicians and elected leaders been?



Joe Pittman (R) – Incumbent

41st Senatorial District | Counties Served: Armstrong, Butler, Indiana & Westmoreland

Prior to my election to the state Senate in May of 2019, I served as Senator Don White's Chief of Staff. Senator White instilled in me the critical need to allow individuals to 'age in place' and recover from illness at home whenever possible. For many, the ability to remain at home with a greater opportunity to engage with family and friends is more important now than ever. The onset of COVID-19 presents a clear danger to the elderly and all individuals with significant underlying medical conditions. Long term care facilities have borne the brunt of the pandemic further underscoring the need for alternative care options in home-based settings.

The fiscal restraints now presented to the Commonwealth call loudly for us to become more creative with limited resources and explore ways to improve the Medicaid program to be more efficient by recognizing areas of potential savings from alternatives other than institutional care. And critical to any new efforts is ensuring a quality workforce is available. I believe a renewed focus on making sure educational opportunities that allow for rewarding careers in the health care sector are critical to our overall success in caring for our fastest growing demographic - those age 65 or older.

Making wages more attractive can be achieved by making the most of savings in the Medicaid budget to enhance salaries and benefits for these critical workers, which I believe must be our ultimate priority. Quality care cannot happen without a quality work force. And a quality work force is not possible without affordable educational opportunities and family sustaining wages.

These efforts will remain a top priority should the voters allow me to continue serving them in the state Senate.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



Tony DeLoreto (D) – Challenger

41st Senatorial District | Counties Served: Armstrong, Butler, Indiana & Westmoreland

No response received.



Jay Costa (D) – Incumbent (Unopposed)

43rd Senatorial District | County Served: Allegheny

No response received.



Jim Brewster (D) – Incumbent

45th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Allegheny & Westmoreland

Given the assaults on the Affordable Care Act by the Trump Administration on the federal level and the struggle to expand access to high-quality health care here in Pennsylvania, it is very difficult for lawmakers who support additional help for patients to find resources. While it is difficult, it is not impossible, and we simply must make direct care and home health care a high priority at budget time.

Policymakers like my colleagues and I who support home and community-based services must find ways to keep the pressure on and find leverage points to ensure that we can expand access and help all who need assistance. I have a long record of advocacy for direct care workers and have sought ways to ensure that programs receive state support.

In addition, it is essential that we find ways to bolster pay for home health care workers. The pandemic has proven that we need to not only recruit more men and women in the field of direct care, but we also must pay our workers better. Direct care workers have proven to be a lifeline for so many who struggle to receive health care amid the COVID crisis.

Our workers need greater access to personal protection equipment, higher wages, and career pathways for those who are now in the field and others we can recruit. I am committed to helping create greater access and assist those who work in home health care.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



Nicole Ziccarelli (R) – Challenger

45th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Allegheny & Westmoreland

No response received.



Elder Vogel Jr. (R) – Incumbent

47th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Beaver, Butler, & Lawrence

No response received.



Stephen Krizan (D) – Challenger

47th Senatorial District | Counties Served: Beaver, Butler, & Lawrence

I am highly in favor of all home health services for our seniors and all those in need of these types of care.

After studying all the details of the costs and cost differences I would certainly consider sponsoring or supporting legislation to promote investing in direct care workforce career pathways and higher and proportional wages for Medicaid eligibility.



Dan Laughlin (R) – Incumbent

49th Senatorial District | County Served: Erie

No response received.

State Senate of Pennsylvania



Julie Slomski (D) – Challenger

49th Senatorial District | County Served: Erie

No response received.

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

dates to remember this election

OCTOBER 19

deadline to register to vote

OCTOBER 27

deadline to apply for absentee ballot

NOVEMBER 3

deadline to return absentee ballot

NOVEMBER 3

election day

All 203 House seats are up for election in 2020. The outcomes of the 2020 election cycle in Pennsylvania stand to influence the state's redistricting process following the 2020 census. In Pennsylvania, the state legislature is responsible for congressional redistricting, subject to gubernatorial veto. State legislative district maps are drawn by a commission.



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- Expanding access to home and community-based services (including funding), so that individuals at risk of losing their independence due to disability are able to remain in their homes and communities.
- Ending the institutional bias in the Medicaid program to put home and community-based services on equal footing with institutional settings for purposes of Medicaid eligibility.
- Investing in the direct care workforce by promoting career pathways and supporting Medicaid reimbursement levels that support higher wages.



Aaron Bernstine (R) – Incumbent

10th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Beaver, Butler & Lawrence

I have sponsored and co-sponsored numerous pieces of legislation that have been supported by home healthcare organizations that provide for additional funding and the transfer of funding from nursing homes to those who can receive care in their homes.

I have worked with the PA Homecare Association to negotiate with the PA Department of Health and also worked legislatively to improve this situation.

I have advocated through the health committee for increased wages for those who serve our most vulnerable in their homes.



Rico Elmore (R) – Challenger

16th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Allegheny & Beaver

I completely agree that in-home care is preferable to facility-based care. The interaction and level of care afforded one who remains at home provides a better quality of life, there's just no way around that. I have said on many occasions that our seniors and disabled are an important part of the fabric of our community. Anything that can be done to incorporate these demographics into every facet of our community MUST be done. The beauty of life is diversity, the current culture would be well served to remember this.

There should be more money allocated to prepare us for the growing senior population. Perhaps the high schools can encourage more students to take a career path as in-home care aides. My Aunt was a homemaker and often said that it was the most rewarding experience she ever had in her life. I'm sure statistics prove that people who receive home health services live longer lives. Seniors need a social life, seniors need more opportunity to share the wealth of wisdom and knowledge that they have acquired. Our local schools should have "living history" lessons that give our seniors the opportunity to share their experiences and insights with the next generation. I would also support a voucher program that allows seniors to choose the type of care they want to receive. The money allocated to put them in a facility should also be allowed to go towards the costs of in-home healthcare. I have many ideas about how we can better serve the senior community and would invite the opportunity to share those thoughts in person. For those of us in our communities with disabilities I am also deeply concerned. It truly bothers me that people even attempt to treat them as second-class citizens or as an after-thought. In my personal opinion they are citizens, and they deserve the same quality of life that everyone else has. They shouldn't be discarded, or hidden away. This is 2020 and as a society we need to evolve in our thinking. Whatever steps are necessary to provide the disabled with the same access and quality of life as every other citizen needs to be done. Period. Imagine a world without Stephen Hawking or FDR. A disabled person is a person. As a society we miss out on some great contributions with our biases towards the disabled. Any one of our citizens who is disabled needs to be enabled by the community as well as the local, state and federal government. We our quickly moving into a virtual world so it's a necessity that we make sure that they are prepared for that transition as well. I would back, as well as introduce, legislation that would provide the proper funding for our senior and disabled neighbors. Funding that would assist with in-home care, expanded activities and all of the necessary support services. The purpose of government is to serve the people. That means providing the services, or assisting in providing the services, that each of our citizens need. These are not partisan issues; these are human issues. Our country does great humanitarian services throughout the world, it's high time we start doing that at home as well.

Pennsylvania State House of Representatives



K.C. Tomlinson (R) – Incumbent

18th Legislative House District | County Served: Bucks

As State Representative, we need to put our vulnerable citizens first. We need to make sure we are placing an emphasis on funding for these critical program to keep our seniors in their homes; this means we have to continue funding Medicaid and make the changes needed to keep these services available to those who need our help the most. I also believe we need to make sure we increase funding to help our home care workers these are the people who keep our seniors in their homes, they have one of the toughest jobs in the world and they deserve to be compensated as such.



Emily Kinkead (D) – Open Seat

20th Legislative House District | County Served: Allegheny

In the simplest terms, Pennsylvanians are living longer, fuller lives and with ongoing concerns about the quality of care our elders receive at nursing facilities as well as a desire to keep our parents and grandparents at home for as long as possible, we need to expand the viable options available to Pennsylvanians when it comes to care in their home. Similarly, there are limited appropriate facilities available for adults with disabilities to live in a home setting, not a clinical setting, with other adults their own age.

Families that have loved ones with disabilities are rarely fully equipped to meet all of the needs that person requires but should not be obligated to remove them from the home and community to meet those needs. Home and community-based services allow individuals with disabilities the dignity of being able to continue to live with their families and in the communities that embrace them rather than being housed in a place away from friends, family, and neighbors who care about them, personally. As a state representative, I will fight to ensure that home and community-based care is an equally viable option for all, regardless of income or family status. In terms of concrete steps, I will support – or introduce – legislation to expand access to home and community-based services, increase Medicaid reimbursements to be competitive with nursing facilities, and working to ensure that the direct care workforce has access to the ability to unionize and feel valued, protected, and adequately compensated in their service. Additionally, I will use my platform to promote these issues and to ensure that my constituents know the status of legislation impacting these issues.



Sara Innamorato (D) – Incumbent

21st Legislative House District | County Served: Allegheny

Allowing our seniors to age in comfort and dignity is something that is very important to me. I see homecare as one of the most important tools we have for achieving that. I believe very much in the value of having relatives take care of the elderly and those on Medicare, and that the government should lessen the burden of those who practice in-home care. I also believe that we must support homecare workers with better pay and working conditions. I would support expanding eligibility for Medicaid payments so that

homecare workers are better able to qualify to receive them. I also support a minimum wage of \$15 an hour for all homecare workers. We need to make sure that our homecare workers can make a living wage from the important work they do so that they can focus on taking care of our elderly instead of having to worry about how they are going to survive. I want to do everything in my power to ensure that we as a community are taking good care of our elders. Making sure that our homecare workers have the support they need is one of the best ways to make sure our elders will get the care that they need.



Dan Frankel (D) – Incumbent

23rd Legislative House District | County Served: Allegheny

The Covid-19 pandemic has uncovered the difficulty of institutional long-term care and may very well lead to a transition with more residents, when able, being provided for in the home for safety reasons. Medicaid, as an entitlement, will continue to be available to fund support services for low-income older adults, but we should also look to other insurance models to find a more sustainable way to collectively care for our older adults.

We must evaluate the impact of the community health choices model with an eye to how HCBS has been maximized in order to increase quality of life and reduce costs in Medicaid. The state budget is under incredible strain, and the expectation is that we will be forced to cut program costs while simultaneously seeing a broad expansion in our Medicaid population due to newly unemployed individuals. While I'd like to simply state that we should be better funding our direct care workforce with more dollars, the truth is that we must broadly rebalance our health care system to direct dollars toward caregivers and prevention. Part of that work includes creating a career track for direct care workers, with opportunities to establish new competencies that will allow them access higher paying jobs. As we recognize the racial disparities that are mirrored in our health care workforce, with people of color occupying "caring roles" with the lowest pay and least education, we could begin to think of this direct care work force as a self-selecting group and provide them the opportunity to grow in this career.



Tim Hennessey (R) – Incumbent

26th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Chester & Montgomery

I have always advocated for expanded use of availability of HCBS during my 12 years as Chair of the House Aging & Older Adults Services Committee. And I do argue that HCBS should be an equal option for our elderly and disabled citizens. Most of our citizens choose to stay in their home – they're comfortable there, they're familiar with the physical floor plan and they've gotten to know their neighbors, who can act as a resource for them. It has always been a question of finding the dollars within the Medicaid budget to provide more funding for HCBS.



Emily Skopov (D) – Open Seat

28th Legislative House District | County Served: Allegheny

We must ensure that those who want to remain in their homes and communities are able to do so. Research has shown again and again that the benefit of allowing seniors and people with disabilities to stay in their homes and communities has benefits to both physical and mental health, and when an individual is able to do so, they should have every resource in order to make that possible. As a legislator, I will advocate for expanded access to home and community-based services, including expanding available funding in order to help more people and makes good economic sense in addition to the wellness benefits it would provide.



Jessica Benham (D) – Open Seat

36th Legislative House District | County Served: Allegheny

As a person with a disability myself, I recognize the many problems with the current ways we fund LTSS for people with disabilities and older adults. Central to my healthcare platform is fighting for people with disabilities and older adults to receive services in the dignity of their own homes, a priority reinforced by my time spent as an appointee to the advisory council to the Office of Developmental Programs in Pennsylvania. At the state level in Pennsylvania, we need to prioritize the needs of families, caregivers, older adults, and people with disabilities when we write legislation and especially when we pass our budget and other legislation.

First and foremost, we need to fully fund Medicaid waivers to end waiting lists for HCBS and transition people out of institutional settings. We know that care is both more cost efficient and results in better quality of life outcomes when it is provided in a home and community-based setting.

Particularly with regard to caregivers, I will fight for fair pay and benefits because the work that caregivers perform is valuable. We also need paid sick and family leave, so that workers can take time off to care for themselves or their family. DSPs should be recognized as the essential workers that they are, and provided the pay, benefits, and resources to effectively do their jobs, especially now. Fair pay and benefits will help attract quality professionals to the field. We can also do more to ensure that high school students become familiar with this career path during career and technical education.



Natalie Mihalek (R) – Incumbent

40th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Allegheny & Washington

I'm a proponent of home-based care, due to its inherent value and because evidence supports that patients are more comfortable and successful when they are rehabilitating in a familiar environment. With the full realization and appreciation that there are patients and situations that require acute or higher levels of post-acute care, home-based rehabilitation represents an opportunity that is currently in a state of evolution and expansion and as state legislators, we should work with the industry to consider avenues

via which to streamline and incentivize this access.

Any disparity in different reimbursement rate is no doubt a challenge confronted by members and respective healthcare institutions. With a history that include being a small business owner, I realize that every business has operating costs and a bottom line. Reviewing and reconsidering the rates, as they compare to the market standards for other products would assist in ensuring equity of options and ultimately care for the patients involved.

We are confronting two compounding challenges at the moment in this state that include an aging population and a deficit in health care workers, from physicians to nurses to all different types of assistants. I support exploring any proposed investment in direct care workforce, as a multi-faceted approach to addressing this growing health challenge.



Anita Kulik (D) – Incumbent

45th Legislative House District | County Served: Allegheny

Five years ago, my late mother developed heart issues. When she came out of the hospital, she was placed in a nursing facility for rehab. Mom was not happy there. Although it was a top facility, and mom had friends that lived there, she wanted to be home.

I do not know what I would have done without homecare. The trusted caregivers that came to my mom's home gave her basic, loving and much needed care. My mom was so happy to be able to be at home.

My late father experienced home care and nursing care. Recently, my mother-in-law had home medical care and the services, especially in this time of COVID, were exceptional and caring. I have experienced all levels of care for my family members and know that my family and I were blessed to experience home care.

We were fortunate to have had the ability to pay for my mom's home care. As a legislator, I am very concerned that some people get forced into skilled nursing care when they do not need that level of care, solely because they are unable to self-pay for home care. I have likewise been greatly concerned that we have a system that would rather pay for high cost institutionalized care over less expensive, more desirable home care. Quite candidly, keeping someone in their home as long as possible should be our goal.

The patient and their family should be able to make proper choices without worrying if the right service is covered by Medicaid. All levels of care should be covered. All levels of care should be given equal consideration and equal footing for Medicaid eligibility.

Moreover, direct care workers should be valued for the high level of service they perform. They should be compensated on levels equal to those who work in institutional care.

I have advocated for home care since being elected to the PA House and will continue to do so.



Jason Oritay (R) – Incumbent

46th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Allegheny & Washington

I think we should exhaust all options possible to keep people in their homes for care. The cost of care is a lot less, but much more importantly, it gives people the freedom to stay at their homes with a much higher quality of life. That includes increasing funding, workforce development, and training.

I fully support ending the institutional bias in Medicare. I'd be happy to sponsor and/or co-sponsor any bill or resolution to end the bias.

The direct care workforce deserves a raise. The amount of turnover (increased costs) and the loss of familiarity with a patient leads to lower quality care. I will fight for higher wages, better benefits, and a new and improved training program to help track people into this field of work.



Timothy O'Neal (R) – Incumbent

48th Legislative House District | County Served: Washington

Home health-care services are a vital component on our medical spectrum. With the cost of home care at half that of nursing facilities, we need to continue to find ways to push care into home and community-based situations as much as possible. Our default, in all of healthcare, should always be the most cost effective, and the most comfortable for the patient, level of care possible while still providing an adequate level of care. In many cases, this is home and community-based care.

community-based care.

I'm eager to work with stakeholders like PHA to ensure we expand access to home based care. In addition, we need to ensure that home healthcare workers are indeed developed and compensated in a way that indicates that we value the care they provide for our seniors. We all want the best care for our loved ones as they age, and we need to ensure that the caregivers are well equipped and adequately compensated for the important work that they perform.



Randy Barli (D) – Challenger

49th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Fayette & Washington

Addressing healthcare is 1 of 4 top priorities I've experienced. 'Irresponsibility' is the 1st problem to address in all top priorities, by enforcing existing law and enacting new law to address these exact issues.

Senior care, disability, home healthcare, hospice care, & retirements are not to be considered 'end-of-life' circumstances, as it presently seems; they need to be addressed as they were intended to be paid-for, financial & healthcare security while enjoying life amidst varying circumstances. Expanding access, ending bias to establish home & community services, & investment in our direct care workforce, would benefit with responsible' leaders!



Pam Snyder (D) – Incumbent

50th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Greene, Fayette & Washington

Home and community-based services are important to rural communities like those I represent. I do think, however, there could be more funding and resources available to enhance these services, and there should not be any laws that impede access to receive these services.

In 2019, I called on the state to delay a plan that mandates that shared ride services for Medical Assistance recipients go through statewide or regional vendors instead of county or locally based services. This was a bipartisan position I held because this mandate would have negatively impacted rural communities and the infrastructure here that provides these services. I would support and fight for funding that goes through local home and community-based service providers.

Pam Snyder (D) – Incumbent (Continued)

I would also continue fighting for expanded broadband access. With an increasingly digital and inter-connected world that's been amplified by COVID-19, internet access is important to maintain independence and access home and community-based services. I currently serve as co-chair of the House Broadband Caucus and we finally have some momentum from other house members to make some progress in funding expansion projects.

It is time for home and community-based services to be considered as equal to services provided in an institutional setting. I believe the legislature should consider legislation that will increase the reimbursement available for these services.

One reason to consider this is because COVID-19 has potentially changed the way that people receive healthcare forever. Because crowded spaces increase the spread of this virus, it could very well be the case that healthcare changes to a more community-based service approach. It's time that we consider institutional and home or community-based services the same when it comes to reimbursement.

The legislature should work to even the playing field, by increasing reimbursement rates for these services, expand eligibility requirements for these services to be reimbursed, and work to enhance access for patients on Medicare so that they know other options are available to those in need.

I believe it's important to promote career pathways and new entrants to the home and community-based care service industry.

As a currently elected Representative of the PA House, I have always advocated for higher wages and worker rights and this would be no exception. I would look at every opportunity to make it possible for the home and community-based service industry to get the proper reimbursement to pay fair wages.

I applaud PHA's proactive approach to creating more homecare options by encouraging local members of any community to start a homecare agency. There is a lot of potential and promise to expand the service offering through this community-driven approach like the one proposed by PHA. I would encourage communities and individuals in my district to go into this industry and look to PHA for support in getting into the industry.



Joseph Petrarca (D) – Incumbent

55th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Armstrong, Indiana & Westmoreland

I certainly support home and community based services (HCBS) and it is important for DHS to continue to work with the federal government on improve funding. Payment deadlines have been extended and providers should explore this option for additional support.

It is unfortunate that there is institutional bias as I feel not only should HCBS be on equal footing, these services should be sought after as the preferred option.

I also agree that we need to invest in the direct care workforce and DHS needs to continue to work to get funding from the CARES Act out quickly.

Joseph Petrarca (D) – Incumbent (Continued)

I applaud the governor for announcing in June, dollars for Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities. I feel these efforts have filled in some of the gaps that exist and those that have been created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We should continue to utilize these tools even after the emergency declaration ends. I feel remote and teleconferencing have been successful and we should continue to invest in their expansion. Remote access may also increase participation for those that are medically or socially vulnerable. Medicaid should also continue to cover telehealth services. I feel that community-based services should be made mandatory to reduce waiting lists. Thank you.



Liz Hanbidge (D) – Incumbent

61st Legislative House District | County Served: Montgomery

As a State Legislator, I am passionate about expanding access to high quality medical care to all Pennsylvanians. In my first term, I have fought for Pennsylvanians' right to affordable in-home care, and other medical assistance. We cannot neglect our duty as legislators to support the most vulnerable members of our community. The Waitlist issue in Pennsylvania is a travesty, many eligible individuals have been waiting for years to receive benefits, and it is unacceptable. My legislation to end the waiver waitlist, HB51, would finally allow families to provide their dependent loved ones with the proper care. HB51 ends the waitlist for Home and Community-Based Services waivers, requiring that benefits are allocated no later than 90 days after a determination of eligibility. Another problem facing our seniors and individuals with disabilities is the high cost of medical equipment and devices. I have sponsored HB2105, which extends hearing aid coverage to Medicaid recipients over the age of 21.

My office has hosted information panels for parents of children aging out of the school system to help them discuss available options, ensuring that families know who to reach out to to learn more about community based programs and their benefits. My legislation ending the waiver waitlist is another relevant aspect of ending this bias.

My Aunt is a direct care worker, and I know the incredible work she does for “her” seniors. I support raising Medicaid reimbursement. Investing in caregivers and their futures is one of the best ways we can ensure that the most vulnerable populations in Pennsylvania are getting consistent and reliable care. Moreover, it's the only way to mitigate the high staff turnover rates.



Denny Semsick (D) – Challenger

62nd Legislative House District | County Served: Indiana

The challenges facing the future care of our seniors and those with disabilities are much larger and increasingly dire as they grow into an unacknowledged public health crisis. The needs related to providing safe and quality health care for all seniors and those with disabilities are extremely complicated, extending across local, state and federal jurisdictions and will require large sums of funding.

We must think outside the box to develop a pathway to success in identifying and developing solutions. Experience has taught us to first look for best practices and adopt those suited for our specific situation. The State of Florida has a successful program that addresses 11 million seniors. Do they have problems?

Denny Semsick (D) – Challenger (Continued)

Yes, but knowing them, we should be able to address them. We must seek input from specialists and experts along with financial professionals and politicians.

Medicaid is a major source of revenue and requirements that must be addressed through our efforts. The major issue today with Medicaid is governmental bureaucracy which includes problematic paperwork and restrictive guidelines such as limiting the number of nursing visits for patients. Securing reimbursement from Medicaid is a step away from harassment for those agencies providing home and community -based care. We must streamline the process to control costs and expand services that will result in safer and improved health care and quality of life. Companion care is a great way to add positive, daily social interactions and health care support. Additionally, we should be considering non-profit organizations to help control costs. The Visiting Nurses Association is a good starting point to incorporate their existing experience and public support. This existing “interference” between patients and caregivers must be minimized for efficiency. Finally, these essential front-line employees must be paid a fair wage and enjoy safe and secure working conditions.



Ryan Grimm (D) – Open Seat

75th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Clearfield & Elk

I believe that home health services need to be a celebrated option not one that is fought for. Just about every senior citizen or person with a disability wants to remain home. It not only makes quality of life better but is economical as well!



Perry Stambaugh (R) – Open Seat

86th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Cumberland & Perry

I would back efforts to support increased homecare services.

I would support legislation that would deem seniors and disabled individuals being cared for at home eligible for Medicaid right away.

Investing in the direct care workforce by promoting career pathways and supporting Medicaid reimbursement levels that support higher wages.

I would back an annual Medicaid rate increase for personal assistance services, with most of the appropriation earmarked for salary boosts.



Greg Rothman (R) – Incumbent

87th Legislative House District | County Served: Cumberland

I support.

I support.

I support.



Francis Ryan (R) – Incumbent

101st Legislative House District | County Served: Lebanon

As a member of the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee since I was elected in 2017, I have been a leading advocate of providing for increased funding, increased support medically, improved financial support for caregivers. As a former hospital board member for 28 years and as a CPA, I am totally behind the need to provide REAL relief and REAL solutions to providing homecare. The problem of caring for our elderly will be the crisis of the next 20 years if we do not act now in concert with the Federal

Government.

CMS and the Federal Government must work with us at the State level to provide relief, parity, and funding for home healthcare. I have meet with CMS to discuss possible solutions and will continue to do so to see necessary federal and state legislation effectively address the problem.

Providing a career pathway and supporting Medicaid reimbursement levels that represent the cost and hardship of providing such care is a major part of the answer. My wife and I help provide care for my mother in law who is now in assisted living. If we had better homecare laws COVID-19 would have been much easier on her rather than the isolation she is enduring. The COVID-19 crisis I believe will help others understand why we have to address this issue now.



Calvin Clements (D) – Challenger

101st Legislative House District | County Served: Lebanon

I would introduce and champion legislation to provide funding for home-based care, because I understand the value of independence afforded to individuals able to remain in their homes. I also understand that people who require assistance are not burdens on their communities, but assets to them.

Yes, I would support legislation to put these options on an equal footing. People should have a full array of options without financial coercion of Medicaid exclusion.

I would support legislation to provide funding for home-based careers that supports wages befitting the importance of the care home-health workers provide.



Matthew Duvall (D) – Challenger

102nd Legislative House District | County Served: Lebanon

All of these actions are worthwhile. In my work with individuals with moderate to severe autism, I've seen firsthand the importance of people being able to live in their own homes and communities. Part of my platform is expanding educational and job options for Pennsylvanians, and this is an example of an area where government could work in partnership with educational institutions and private employers to come up with innovative programs to recruit and train workers for this critical service. At the same

time, we want to pay a decent wage so that these direct care workers can support themselves and their families, so getting Medicaid reimbursement levels up would help in that regard.



Thomas Mehaffie (R) – Incumbent

106th Legislative House District | County Served: Dauphin

I would look at ways to expand Medicaid/Medicare services and ensuring funding for caretakers so that there is enough support to keep at risk individuals in their homes and communities as long as they are able. I introduced HB1900 which would license behavioral analysts and help individuals with intellectual disabilities be able to live independently with the support of their behavioral analyst.

I would support putting home and community-based services on equal footing with institutional settings related to Medicaid reimbursements and eligibility.

I would support expanding Medicaid reimbursement levels that support higher wages for home healthcare workers. We know this is an overall cost savings so that extra funding should go directly to the healthcare workers so we can continue to have the highest quality caregivers.



Lindsay Drew (D) – Challenger

106th Legislative House District | County Served: Dauphin

Increasing access to home care services should be a policy priority for both parties so that older Pennsylvanians can age safely from the comfort of their homes. I will advocate for all measures and funding initiatives to strengthen and expand the home care workforce, give seniors and people with disabilities access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensure that all of these resources are readily available at home or in the community. Additionally, family caregivers should be

incentivized through tax credits and provided the training they need to support their loved ones. Because older Pennsylvanians prefer to age in their homes than in facilities, programs that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization must be supported equally by the government. This includes ensuring that family and community-based solutions are given equal funding from Medicaid.



Jonathan Fritz (R) – Incumbent

111th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Susquehanna & Wayne

PA has the 5th highest elder population in the U.S., so this question is critical to the well-being of a large portion of our population. PA must make adjustments in funding and provide increases, as necessary, in order to ensure that our older neighbors, friends and loved ones can age in peace in their home. This paradigm shift cannot be ignored. Along those lines; I would support budgets that reflect that shift.

To continue the theme from above response, the demand to age in place is undeniable. Government is always slow to react, but the reality is that there are not enough institutional vacancies to accommodate our aging population. Along those lines, I support legislation that ends the bias and properly reflects the need for change.

Post-pandemic, the demand for in-home care will see a pronounced demand increase. Those consumers will have a desire for a safe setting, free of the concerns and rapid spread environment that some institutions suffered with. The marketplace, simply, will have to accommodate that increase in demand. Along those lines, I will support legislation that allows for easier certification and provides incentives for proper compensation and care.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my positions!



Tarah Toohil (R) – Incumbent

116th Legislative House District | County Served: Luzerne

I absolutely support more home based services for seniors as they age. Both of my parents are in their seventies and live with me. Currently, my family is personally experiencing the lack of support, services, and flexibility of those services. The denial of coverage for these services by health insurance and Medicare is also a large issue. Aging at home without financial and professional assistance can be mentally and physically difficult for the caretakers in the family. When this is combined with an inability to afford the current

rates for home based services, home health care, aides and assistant caretakers it makes the situation even more challenging.

Yes. I absolutely agree that seniors should have the ability to age with dignity and support in their homes. The financial drawbacks should not hinder this opportunity. I agree that the institutional bias needs to be ended so that we can level the playing field giving seniors more options for home and community-based care.

Yes. I support increasing wages for these workers which will increase the quality of the employees that are attracted to these jobs and allow more qualified individuals to work in this field as it begins to offer a more family sustaining wage.



Andrew Holter (R) – Challenger

118th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Lackawanna & Luzerne

I'm a paramedic and I can fully appreciate the PHA and home health care. I've been an EMS for nearly 15 years and just in that short time I have seen how unfair treatment in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements have affected EMS in Pennsylvania. I didn't have a chance to print out and return the survey by the deadline but I certainly want you and your organization to know that I will work tirelessly to provide fair and adequate funding for our forgotten elements of the health care continuum.



Joanna Smith (D) – Challenger

120th Legislative House District | County Served: Luzerne

I strongly believe in increasing access to home care services so that Pennsylvanians can age safely in their own homes. As a public defender, I have had clients who are family caregivers and were still unable to make ends meet. I believe in incentivizing family caregivers through tax credits as well as providing them with the training they need to support their loved ones. When elected, I will advocate to fund initiatives to expand and strengthen the home care workforce. We need to ensure that seniors and people with

disabilities have full access to quality, affordable long-term care. We know that many Pennsylvanians prefer to receive care in their homes, so we must ensure that family and community-based solutions are supported equally by the government and given equal funding from Medicaid.



Taylor Picone (D) – Challenger

124th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Berks, Carbon & Schuylkill

I will work to improve access to home care and community-based services. Access to in home care is important for our communities particularly in the wake of COVID-19 where we balanced hospital capacity by utilizing nursing homes which were ill-prepared and equipped in many cases to deal with a very contagious illness. Ensuring more people can remain in home and maintain some independence not only improves the quality of life for

the patient but assists our medical infrastructure in being prepared. We should also encourage counties to establish health departments to assist with a localized ability to treat their communities. I would support state grants/funding for county health departments in conjunction with county funding.

Medicaid eligibility should be equal regardless of the location where care is performed. In-home care is more cost effective and could realize a cost savings.

Within the 124th District we need to diversify our economic opportunities beyond just warehousing. Job training programs and promoting career paths in multiple areas can help us do this. By working to increase reimbursement levels to attract additional workers will have a multitude of effects for our communities. Better care, better care givers, better economic opportunities, and less migration out of our district of working age people due to a lack of working opportunities which means more economic investment into our communities.

Pennsylvania State House of Representatives



James Oswald (R) – Challenger

126th Legislative House District | County Served: Berks

I am in favor of home-based health care and financial support of the same. In most cases not only is home based care less expensive, the patients also have a much healthier outlook on their situation.

Being an EMT for the last 27 years, I have been in a lot of Senior Care Facilities as well as a lot of seniors' homes. The seniors that are still at home almost always have a more positive disposition. From my personal experiences, I would vote for Medicaid to offer Homecare as an option at a similar financial outlay.

Again, being an EMT, I personally see how Medicaid has failed the system. From not giving proper reimbursement for Ambulances to not providing for fair wages to home health care workers. Home health care workers provide a vital service, now more than ever during Covid and should be compensated a fair wage. Since home health care and EMS share some of the same challenges in respect to Medicaid, if elected I will work to eliminate these Medicaid shortfalls.



Lamar Foley (D) – Challenger

130th Legislative House District | County Served: Berks

I am a family physician. I am dedicated to the idea that seniors and those with disabilities should be able to stay in their own homes whenever it is possible to give them the support they need to be happy and safe at home rather than being committed to an institutional life they don't desire. I have long supported this in my service as a family physician. There are few things more important than supporting the liberty of living at home. I am eager to work with PHA to help arrange the financial support necessary to encourage a robust direct care workforce and putting an end to institutional bias in the Medicaid program.



Milou Mackenzie (R) – Open Seat

131st Legislative House District | Counties Served: Lehigh, Montgomery & Northampton

Home and community-based healthcare offers the people of Pennsylvania greater options for care in a setting that often proves beneficial to their mental health when it is needed most.

As Representative, I would support home and community-based care in a number of ways. First, I would be an advocate for it both in the legislature and in the community because I believe public education on this issue will help drive community support and legislative movement. Second, within the restrictions of a fiscally responsible budget, I would push for increased funding for all care options with a focus on providing greater equity between home and community-based care and more traditional facility care. Finally, I believe that addressing PA's medical professional shortage through tuition tax credits and more will help grow home and community-based care overall as there are more quality caregivers to serve in our communities.



Mike Schlossberg (D) – Incumbent

132nd Legislative House District | County Served: Lehigh

In re-reviewing the advocacy portion of your website, I think it's pretty clear we are on the same page. I have voted for community-based services in the past and would do so again. Candidly, I believe we need to increase our funding across an array of services, and home-based care is one of them. We know that this care is cheaper and what seniors typically want – I'd like to do what we can to support these efforts.

I support an increase in funding in order to fund these services. More to the point, I'd be willing to vote for enhanced revenue as part of these efforts. I support a Medicaid rate increase and presumptive eligibility changes and investing more to increase wages for our workforce – I know we have had these conversations in the past. I'd add that these conversations are more important than ever, particularly given the rise in COVID-19.



Tara Zrinski (D) – Open Seat

138th Legislative House District | County Served: Northampton

As a Northampton County Councilperson, I've seen firsthand the significant expense that comes from managing and maintaining a Senior Care Center. Nursing homes are complex and costly, removing people from an environment that is comfortable and familiar. It is clear most seniors would rather age in their homes than be forced to move to a facility away from family and friends.

As State Representative, I would support PHA's request for a 10% increase in Medicaid payments for personal care services to make the profession more desirable and fairly compensated and standardize it across all of Pennsylvania's regions. Even this moderate increase wouldn't bring the state to the nearly \$4 billion spent on nursing homes.

I would also update state legislation to permit presumptive eligibility for home-care services instead of allowing the six-month continued back-log many can experience. Pennsylvania's population continues to age and it makes sense that as more people choose to age at home, the state must be prepared to accommodate them.

Furthermore, I would further support ending the practice of counting senior financial support for Medicare Part D from being counted towards their Medicaid Eligibility. As this money is deducted from the Social Security checks of seniors it seems unfair to count it as income and potentially prevent many from being able to age in place.

Finally, in order to support career pathways and further education opportunities in the direct care workforce, I proudly support the PA Promise. This program would provide free community college, trade school, technical school or public university education. I think removing the barrier to education and further increasing the wages in the field of direct care will make others consider the profession. I believe we should be doing more to persuade people to take up jobs in fields of care.

Pennsylvania State House of Representatives



Marian Keegan (D) – Challenger

139th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Pike & Wayne

I would seek support from advocates and fight to shift funding and legislation towards allowing our elders and individuals with a disability to remain in their homes and communities. The Departments of Health, Aging and Human Services should be a strong and meaningful presence in every county to track the need and availability of home and community-based services. Transportation and delivery services should be available in meaningful ways to assist our elders and individuals with a disability. This COVID crisis

has expanded delivery services in a way that should make it easier for our elders and individuals with a disability.

Institutional bias runs deep. When family members are not open to home care for our elders or disabled loved ones, the court system too readily allows incapacitation and assignment of guardians. Incapacitated individuals lose rights, dignities and access to family. Home and community-based services should be on equal footing with institutional settings to provide the compassionate and competent care that assures society that our elderly and disabled can live full lives of dignity at home.

I would start with the 2017 Pennsylvania Homecare and Hospice Compensation Survey and compare to other health sectors. Are the career pathways similar? What is the organizational or institutional support for higher wages? I would keep an open pathway to the US Representative from my district to advocate for federal action.



Tina Davis (D) – Incumbent

141st Legislative House District | County Served: Bucks

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the issues and limitations of Congregate Care Facilities. Even in the best of times, a majority of seniors and people with disabilities prefer to stay in their own home. Increasing access to home and community-based services and increasing funding not only helps seniors maintain their independence but is cost effective. That is why I am in favor of increasing funding for home and community-based services.



Lauren Lareau (D) – Challenger

142nd Legislative House District | County Served: Bucks

If elected, I will support legislation that increases funding to community-based services in order to expand access to care for individuals still able to live in their own homes. This is a quality of life issue as much as an economic one.

If elected, I will support legislation that puts community-based services on equal footing with institutional settings regarding eligibility for the Medicaid program. This change is crucial to expanding access to community services.

If elected, I will support legislation that raises wages across all job sectors. With the largest generation of Americans entering retirement over the next few years, our direct care workforce is more important than ever. Professional development and higher wages should reflect that importance.

Pennsylvania State House of Representatives



Wendy Ullman (D) – Incumbent

143rd Legislative House District | County Served: Bucks

I support expanding opportunities for citizens to remain in their homes as they age. As state Rep., I helped secure \$775K in low-income housing tax credits for affordable multifamily housing and over \$600K to help protect seniors from abuse. I also hosted a PA House Democratic Policy hearing to discuss how we can better serve our seniors and continue to improve the situation in long term care facilities as we move into the winter months.

I support Paid Family and Medical Leave, and I believe home care should be covered by health insurance in PA.

Rep. Austin Davis introduced legislation (HB 2640) this year to create a workplace standards board where home care workers and nursing home workers would have the chance to work with the Department of Human Services to set higher standards and freely join a union. If reelected, I will support HB 2640 and other legislation to create higher standards for Pennsylvania's direct care workforce.



Todd Polinchock (R) – Incumbent

144th Legislative House District | County Served: Bucks

I am a strong supporter of expanding access to home and community-based services, as studies continue to indicate it being the best form of care.

I agree that the institutional bias in the Medicaid Program must be fixed and would be happy to work with the PA Homecare Association to fix this problem.

I support increasing Medicaid reimbursement levels to create higher wages and investing in career pathways so that patients can get the best access to care.



Robin Colajezzi (D) – Challenger

145th Legislative House District | County Served: Bucks

My senior parents moved in with me in 2006. My mother had dementia and my father is aphasic due to a stroke. While working full-time, I cared for their basic needs (medication, feeding, bathing, cleaning). My mother passed in 2015 but my father is still with me. The struggle to place our loved ones in assisted living is hard on the caregivers, as much as it is on the seniors. It wasn't until my mother fell and broke her arm in two places, that I was able to move her without too much of a fight (though the fight was still there). I strongly support home care based on my personal experiences. The opportunities are limited and require necessary reform and funding. I will fight for all of our seniors when I get to Harrisburg.

I will fight for better wages for healthcare professionals regardless of the location. Low-income areas need the ability to attract caregivers with competitive wages and benefits.

Direct care workforce needs to expand as a viable career choice to any individuals interested in healthcare, starting at the high school level. I will fight to promote these programs to our youth as well as our workforce segments.



Joseph Ciresi (D) – Incumbent

146th Legislative House District | County Served: Montgomery

I am committed to working diligently with our Chair of Appropriations, Department Health and Human Services, and Insurance to develop an affordable solution to these issues with emphasis on the related expenses to congregate care.

This is something that I feel is extremely important for multiple reasons. The first is that people do better in a setting to which they are accustomed. That for most would be the familiar surroundings of the home. Also, as we have seen with COVID when there is a virus challenge it tends to spread more rapidly in a confined space holding multiple people. If we are able to have our most vulnerable population cared for at home we would reduce the opportunity for mass infection.

I have a very close friend who is a home care therapist. We recently discussed the need for a better and more consistent salary/benefits for these workers. The way we are currently paying some of our employees lends itself to losing good caregivers. The personal risks they have to take and the hours they provide to service in the industry far outweigh the reward. We need to offer low cost educational options, provide tax incentives, and look to how, along with the unions, the workforce can be strengthened!



Mary Jo Daley (D) – Incumbent

148th Legislative House District | County Served: Montgomery

I recognize the importance of each of these issues and have cosponsored legislation that will address the problems that you have put forward. I voted in favor of HB51 in the Health Committee. This bill would have provided for a medical assistance deemed eligibility program for home care, home health, and older adult daily living center services.

Institutional bias is one of our biggest challenges as a society and it is extremely important for legislators to keep it in the forefront as we draft legislation and evaluate services, even those that have been standard practice for many years. The situation with home and community-based services is an important one in particular because we have thousands of people on waiting lists for these services. The budget challenges are even more enormous for the state due to the loss of revenue. This must be addressed, and I am supportive of a fairer personal income tax wherein we have a higher tax rate for “money earned on money (investments)” than on labor, services and small businesses. This would ultimately be a tax on wealth and is a change I would support.

Lastly, direct care workers are absolutely under compensated and lack basic support as they seek to develop their careers and provide the type of care needed in home and community-based healthcare settings. I will continue to do everything in my power to support Medicaid reimbursements so these essential workers are duly compensated for the extremely difficult work they do.



Joseph Webster (D) – Incumbent

150th Legislative House District | County Served: Montgomery

Pennsylvania's homecare aides and skilled nurses enable our rapidly aging population to live and thrive at home. I understand that low provider rates and a shortage of workers available to provide direct care force organizations to limit the number of referrals to participants who are in need of help. And I know, because I have elders in my home who depend on the skill and compassion of direct homecare providers.

The global pandemic has highlighted the importance of essential workers to provide quality in-home care. For too long, home care workers' wages have remained stagnant while responsibilities of providing care, especially now, have increased. Low wages, combined with inadequate benefits, few opportunities for advancement and professional growth and an increased case load put our elderly population at risk of not being able to access help when they require it.

I support and have pushed our Governor to make CARES dollars available for homecare directly or as a compliment to Medicare rates during the pandemic.

I also support increasing the Medicaid rate for personal assistance services to ensure agencies are able to provide quality care to our seniors and that workers are more fairly compensated for their services. Employees who provide in-home care are entitled to a living wage and benefits. As the costs of providing care continue to increase, agencies should be receiving reimbursement that considers their growing costs.

I believe that patients deserve to qualify for presumptive eligibility for Medicaid-based in-home care just like they do with nursing home care. Allowing people to stay in their homes and receive care while they are awaiting paperwork will help to control the rising costs of care in the Commonwealth.

Community agencies who offer in-home care to our elderly population deserve more state funding so that their employees are able to learn and grow in their careers as home health professionals. We need to support the families of Pennsylvania and ensure our seniors receive the quality care they deserve.



Beth Ann Mazza (R) – Challenger

150th Legislative House District | County Served: Montgomery

I believe that we should be provide more flexibility in the state's Medicaid system to empower individuals to choose whether they would prefer to receive services in their own home or a nursing home. Under the current system of "presumed eligibility", individuals who apply for Medicaid are automatically eligible for nursing home services but are required to undergo a months-long application and waiver approval process in order to receive less expensive in-home care. When elected, I will support HB 51, to

expedite the approval process and make in-home care more equitable.

I believe HB 51, which seeks to expedite the waiver process, is an important first step. However, I also believe we must also ensure that necessary funding is allocated from Medicaid to the waiver program for in-home care. The current system perpetuates inconsistent reimbursement rates for the quality and level of care provided. I would also support the PHA's efforts to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rates for home and community-based services.

Beth Ann Mazza (R) – Challenger (Continued)

The current reimbursement rates for home and community-based services are too low, especially when you consider that it is almost 50 percent less expensive than providing these services in an institutional setting. In addition, these low reimbursement rates mean that individuals who provide these crucial services to patients do not receive the level of compensation they need and deserve. To me, this is unacceptable. When I become a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, you can count on me to increase funding for this program so that the agencies providing this care can cover their costs and the individuals they employ can earn family-sustaining wages.



Nancy Guent (D) – Open Seat

152nd Legislative House District | Counties Served: Montgomery & Philadelphia

Excellent questions! I believe there is nothing more important than having the ability to provide and afford home based funding to keep our disability community in a safe, warm and welcoming environment where they can continue to work towards their independence, just be close to their familiar surroundings, or simply have the comfort and familial support that they so depend on.

I believe everyone in our community should have access to affordable and reliable healthcare and that these essential workers should be duly compensated and protected during their work with our families.



Karen Houck (R) – Open Seat

152nd Legislative House District | Counties Served: Montgomery & Philadelphia

I believe that home and community-based care provides people with a positive option to remain in a familiar environment while dealing with health issues – something that benefits mental health and personal happiness through their challenges. It is because of this that I share the goals of PHA to improve support of, and access to, home and

community-based care. Achieving these goals will require a well-rounded strategy that mixes positive promotion of the benefits of home and community-based care along with support for increased funding, equity in funding, and addressing the need for more caregivers.

As a legislator, I will work to ensure that home and community-based care is placed on a more level field with programs like Medicare when it comes to reimbursements, etc. as well as support increased funding within the state's budgetary constraints. I will also be a willing and vocal advocate for home and community-based care both among fellow legislators, the constituents I would be honored to serve, and the general public at large. By increasing public support for these services, we increase pressure on the legislature to act.

Finally, I would work to address the state's distressing shortage of medical professionals through programs like tuition tax credits and forgiveness, retention programs, and more.



Dianne Herrin (D) – Open Seat

156th Legislative House District | County Served: Chester

Fortunately, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act was included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or the “CARES Act” and signed into law. At the State level, I support disregarding Medicare premiums from Medicaid income rules so more seniors can qualify for stay-at-home care coverage. I also support updating Medicaid rules to allow presumptive eligibility for home-based care. Finally, by 2025, more than 25% of PA’s residents will be 65 or older, and I support a Medicaid PAS rate increase provided a reasonable portion goes directly to the on-site healthcare workers to increase wages.

I believe we need to work to rebalance Medicaid funding so we do not force the poorest and most vulnerable into care settings they do not want. According to a nationwide AARP survey, nearly 90 percent of seniors ages 65 and older would prefer to receive care at home and in their communities as they age. The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the importance of living well in the community with adequate supports, rather than being forced into institutionalized care settings due to a system that financially incentivizes the latter.

Low wages, limited professional development opportunities, and demanding workloads have hindered the appeal of being a direct-care worker. This has also affected providers’ ability to retain workers. We need more substantive training requirements and adequate pay to ensure quality of care, and this must be the foundation of expanding home care funding and services. In other words, it makes little sense to expand these services through Medicaid rebalancing (as noted above) without also ensuring workforce training and financial supports are in place, in order to ensure quality care.

PA should also convene a research effort to assess alternative payment models to further promote quality of care and increase home-based care access, such as value-based payments and other approaches tested in other states.



Melissa Shusterman (D) – Incumbent

157th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Chester & Montgomery

I believe that older adults and persons with disabilities have a right to dignity, autonomy, and independence. I oppose cuts to Medicaid that would threaten the quality of life or the availability of home and community-based services (HCBS) to individuals with long-term care needs in Pennsylvania.

As a member of the House Aging & Older Adult Services Committee, I have supported legislation that upholds the dignity of Pennsylvania’s seniors and those with disabilities. As a member of the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Caucus and sponsor of HB 1363 (protecting the rights of disabled Pennsylvanians), I recognize the importance of allowing individuals the independence to receive care within their own communities and the economic freedom to do so. I support increasing the Medicaid rate for Personal Assistance Services, permitting presumptive eligibility to expedite Medicaid for those receiving HCBS, and the Pennsylvania Order for Life Sustaining Treatment to provide more choice in end-of-life care.

While Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) have always provided essential and invaluable services, their work has

Melissa Shusterman (D) – Incumbent (Continued)

become even more critical during the Covid-19 pandemic. In May, I drafted two bills to support DSPs, one that created grant program for the commonwealth's nonprofit organizations, funded by the CARES Act, and a second that provides affordable transportation to caretakers to allow them to provide better care to the elderly and disabled while still saving money to provide for their own families. Furthermore, I've supported bills that would benefit DSPs, such as a student loan forgiveness act for personal care workers and a bill to increase the minimum wage to \$15 by 2022. I support hazard pay for those providing care during COVID-19.

When reelected, I pledge to use my position on the Aging & Older Adult Services to support the invaluable work of Pennsylvania's Direct Care Professionals.



Craig Williams (R) – Open Seat

160th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Chester & Delaware

We support these measures to ensure that individuals can remain independent and healthy in public housing at a low cost. Our support to revitalize existing public housing communities is our main priority, through non-profit organizations, private and government funding we will allocate our resources to prioritize every individual. Community based services are set in place to see to that every individual can be heard

and helped.

We support these measures to end the institutional bias in the Medicaid Program. Our support to allocate funding to community-based services is of great importance to us to allow individuals to receive the proper care before it is necessary to go to a nursing home institution. Expanding on community-based programs will prevent further measures being taken, and keep our community healthy, and safe.

We support these measures to invest in the direct care workforce, and will utilize payments and delivery reforms for the benefit of the patients and Direct Care Workforce, by investing in our direct care workforce it will reduce unnecessary costs, better care for the patient, and higher wages.



Leanne Krueger (D) – Incumbent

161st Legislative House District | County Served: Delaware

I will continue to fight for increased reimbursement rates.

In previous sessions, I have hosted policy sessions on homecare. I am a firm believer that anyone who wants to stay in their home should be able to.

I had a constituent who was denied home care because she made less than \$8 too much to qualify. This is abhorrent.

Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic we need to expand eligibility for homecare.

Medicaid has consistently been under attack in our State capitol and we need to fight to protect this important funding stream for our most vulnerable citizens.

Leanne Krueger (D) – Incumbent (Continued)

I've worked on Medicaid issues in the House since I was elected in 2015. In Pennsylvania, 1.2 million children and 248,000 senior citizens are currently receiving health care through Medicaid. When federal attacks on healthcare came on the scene in 2017 I was outspoken about urging our then Congressman not to give into political pressure and push that legislation through Congress.

The proposed Republican plan would have frozen Medicaid enrollment for low-income adults without dependent children beyond 2020 and convert Medicaid to a per-capita allotment. If federal funding had been reduced for the Medicaid expansion population, the Department of Human Services estimated the cost to Pennsylvania would have been \$2 billion, a cost the state could not and cannot afford.

Additionally, Medicaid needs to expand to ensure that folks are being given the option of homecare instead of being forcibly institutionalized. Especially in the midst of a pandemic institutional care creates a more dangerous environment for seniors and health care workers.

I have and will continue to fight against Medicaid restrictions. I have and will continue to advocate for inclusive legislation.

As I mentioned above, I support not only codifying Medicaid expansion in Pennsylvania, which is currently only created by an Executive Order, and increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate to allow home healthcare workers to make family-sustaining wages.

Additionally, just as I support career and technical education for building and construction trades, I support investing as much in our future home/direct care workforce.



Ralph Shicatano (R) – Challenger

161st Legislative House District | County Served: Delaware

If elected to the PA House of Representatives on Nov. 3rd, I would wholeheartedly stand behind efforts to expand funding for home-based services. These services enable disabled seniors and others to remain in their homes and retain their independence at a significantly lower cost to taxpayers. This is a win-win.

In 2019 I experienced firsthand all of the pitfalls of institutional care vs. the benefits of family & home care. My father suffered a serious fall down the stairs as a result of the rapid progression of Dementia in the winter of 2018. He broke 6 ribs and punctured a lung. He was a strong, hardworking man that never once complained about what must have been excruciating pain. After being treated and recovering after a 6-week hospital stay he was admitted to an institutional rehabilitation facility. While the facility was eager to place him into the system and start billing his Medicare account, they were ill equipped to deal with special needs of a patient suffering from advancing loss of mental capacity. They were short staffed and the professionals that managed his care "did the best they could" with his physical rehabilitation but were unable to have a significant impact on his physical recovery. Dad would yell out and disturb his neighbors while he called for his family through the long nights alone. After discovering that the plan of action included an excessive amounts of narcotics "for pain", my family and I decided to discharge him and care for him in his residence along with continued in-home rehabilitation and personal care. His care providers showed up 3 days per

Ralph Shicatano (R) – Challenger (*Continued*)

week for a few hours to tend to his physical and personal needs, while my sisters and I took turns helping my mother to care for him the remainder of the time.

During that time, we met numerous skilled and loving caretakers that helped us care for Dad without bankrupting mom in the process. My mother and sisters were able to conveniently visit and care for our father in his home where he was familiar and comfortable. This formula for care is about much more than finances. This was about quality of life for my family and me in dad's final days. During this time, dad told me he loved me every single day. Dad passed peacefully after a long and happy life, with his family by his side in September of 2019 at the age of 89.

As a legislator I will be committed to supporting this alternative care formula in every way. Every American suffering with significant medical challenges can benefit from the quality of life improvements realized by home care options while all taxpayers are better served by these creative fiscal solutions.



Pete Gaglio (R) – Challenger

162nd Legislative House District | County Served: Delaware

Home and community-based care provides people with alternatives that allow them to remain in a familiar environment while addressing their health issues, which is something that benefits both their mental health and personal happiness.

These positive benefits are why I share the goals of PHA to improve support of, and access to, home and community-based care.

I believe achieving the goals of PHA requires a comprehensive approach that includes educating the public (and the legislature) of the benefits of home and community-based care, support for increased funding, initiatives to ensure greater equity in funding, and addressing Pennsylvania's shortage of qualified caregivers.

If elected, I will focus efforts on each of these fronts by:

1. Supporting efforts that place home and community-based care on a level playing field with traditional programs like Medicare;
2. Supporting increased funding (within the overall state budget);
3. Publicly advocating for home and community-based care to improve public and legislative education on the issue; and
4. Support initiatives backed by the state's medical and education communities to help relieve the shortage of medical professionals in our state.



Jennifer O'Mara (D) – Incumbent

165th Legislative House District | County Served: Delaware

Home and community-based services serve as affordable options for seniors, allowing them to stay in their own homes while also receiving the medical assistance they need to continue on with their lives. Too often this important form of healthcare is treated as lesser to care received in institutions like nursing homes. In Harrisburg, I am committed to removing barriers to treatment so that seniors can get the care that works best for them.

Jennifer O'Mara (D) – Incumbent (Continued)

This issue is truly one of equity, as the current system affords wealthier seniors choice and freedom while forcing seniors on Medicaid into nursing homes regardless of their personal preference. We must do away with the Medicaid guidelines that prioritize institutional settings over home care. Doing so would save seniors money and make our system fairer.

The Coronavirus pandemic has made this problem even more apparent, showing us that seniors that are cared for at home are often safer than those in nursing homes. Our present crisis makes it even clearer that ensuring that seniors are cared for at home is a matter of public safety. Yet despite the clear benefits, these programs are underfunded and underutilized. We must do more to increase funding for these important initiatives. Giving home care nurses a raise will make this career a viable option for those entering the workforce and expand healthcare access to seniors.



Robert Smythe (R) – Challenger

165th Legislative House District | County Served: Delaware

I believe that we should be providing added flexibility in the state's Medicaid system that empowers individuals to choose whether they would prefer to receive services in a nursing home or in their own home. Unfortunately, under the current system of "presumed eligibility", individuals who apply for Medicaid are automatically eligible for nursing home services but are required to undergo a months-long application and waiver

approval process in order to receive less expensive in-home care. If elected, I would support HB 51, which would put in-home care on more equitable footing and expedite the approval process. It makes complete sense to me to empower individuals to receive the care they need in the setting they prefer, particularly since maintaining their own independence by continuing to live in their own home is a priority for many people who need these services. It makes even more sense when you consider the savings to taxpayers of providing in-home care services compared to those same services in an institutional setting.

I believe the above legislation, which seeks to expedite the waiver process, is an important first step. However, I believe we also need to ensure that the necessary funding is allocated from Medicaid to the waiver program for in-home care. The current system perpetuates what, in my opinion, are reimbursement rates that are not consistent with the quality and level of care that is provided. I would support the PHA's efforts to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rates for home and community-based services – which range from \$17.52 to \$19.52 per hour based on the geographic region – to a statewide level of \$20.52 per hour.

The current low reimbursement rates for home and community-based services make little sense, particularly when you consider that it is nearly 50 percent less expensive than providing these services in an institutional setting. In addition, these low reimbursement rates mean that individuals who provide these crucial services to patients can earn as little as \$10 per hour. That, in my mind, is unacceptable. I believe the legislature should be looking to increase the funding for this program so that agencies providing this care can cover their overhead and the individuals they employ can earn family-sustaining wages.



Kristine Howard (D) – Incumbent

167th Legislative House District | County Served: Chester

I serve on the Human Services Committee, an assignment I requested given my background, and I will use my position to continue to support increases in funding for home and community-based services. The pandemic has increased the urgency of the need to address these needs thoroughly and forcefully.

I believe it is important to all we can to keep people in need of care in their homes and communities whenever reasonably possible. Ending institutional bias that causes the treatment of home and community-based programs by Medicaid and other publicly funded support programs must be eliminated.

I believe it is important to invest in the education and training of the direct care workforce. I favor and will advocate, in particular, enhancing direct care curriculum and training support in our state community colleges and PASHA universities. I also support increasing Medicaid reimbursements to levels that support higher wages for direct care workers.



Chris Quinn (R) – Incumbent

168th Legislative House District | County Served: Delaware

I believe home and community-based services should be better integrated into our overall health care system. Home and community-based services allow individuals to receive healthcare, homecare, and hospice in the comfort of their own homes, reduces costs associated with care, and, in many cases, yields better results for patients. Amid the

current COVID-19 pandemic, it is also important to note that patients who receive home and community-based services are at less risk of being exposed to infections than individuals who receive care at nursing homes and other healthcare facilities.

As you know, the current emergency declarations related to COVID-19 have resulted in a number of important regulatory waivers and administrative flexibilities related to healthcare. One of those flexibilities is the temporary ability of nurse practitioners and physician assistants to ordering home health services for patients. I recently introduced HB 2779, the Retaining Health Care Innovations Act, legislation that would set a clear timeline for the termination of waivers and administrative flexibilities afforded to health care providers and practitioners for one year after the end of the COVID-19 emergency declaration. It will also direct the Joint State Government Committee, with the assistance of a health care professionals and administrative officials, to make recommendations as to which waivers and administrative flexibilities should remain permanently in place. Based on my discussions with leaders from the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA), I will be amending my legislation to enable the PHA to appoint a representative to serve on the advisory committee that will review current administrative flexibilities that have been provided amid the current pandemic and make recommendations on which flexibilities should be made permanent.

I believe the current system improperly drives individual toward institutional settings for care, despite the fact that in many cases, patients receive better outcomes from home and community-based services, often at substantially lower cost. The current system requires home and community-based service providers to negotiate reimbursement rates with individual managed care organizations (MCOs). In many cases, the negotiated reimbursement rates are so low that providers have difficulty covering their overhead costs and can only afford to pay their homecare workers earn

Chris Quinn (R) – Incumbent (Continued)

in the range of \$11.50 per hour. I believe we need to ensure more money is allocated to the waiver programs for home and community based services so that providers can continue to attract qualified workers who are responsible for care for some of our society's most vulnerable populations in the safety of their own homes.

Streamlining the waiver process and allocating more funding for the waiver program makes sense from a fiscal perspective, as the costs in many cases is often substantially lower than providing the same care in institutional settings. Allocating additional funding will also allow for better pay for individuals who provide these services and enable the industry to recruit and retain qualified individuals to provide these critical services.



Deb Ciamacca (D) – Challenger

168th Legislative House District | County Served: Delaware

Once elected, I would support the top five areas of policy that the PHA is advocating for. First, I would support a 10% Medicaid PAS Rate Increase, and a standardized PAS rate across all regions of the state of PA (to \$20.58 / hour). PAS agencies fulfill an essential need and should not be losing money by the hour at the current rate. Similarly, I would advocate for presumptive eligibility for homecare – not only because homecare is just as viable an option as a nursing home/assisted living facility and people who are waiting for applications to be processed still need care in the interim, but also because the state needs more income for social service programs and preventative, holistic medical care that would work in tandem with what the PHA does. I also believe that seniors who have Medicare Part B premiums taken out of their social security checks should still be eligible to receive Medicaid home-based care, and that patients and healthcare providers should have access to Pennsylvania Order for Life Sustaining Treatment forms. Finally, I would like to meet with the PA Homecare Association board once elected to further discuss these matters, both throughout the remainder of the COVID pandemic, and beyond.



Martina White (R) – Incumbent

170th Legislative House District | County Served: Philadelphia

I believe that home and community-based healthcare provides a dignified and desire option for Pennsylvania's residents and share the goals of the Pa Homecare Association to better support and promote such care.

One of the first steps in growing support for these goals must include greater public education as to the positive nature of home and community-based care. While this is something that falls primarily under the responsibility of an organization such as yours, I believe that public leaders such as myself who are willing to speak out will help. I also know that building legislative support starts with building public support.

Of course, the greatest thing we can do to help reach the goals of PHA is to address funding – particularly in programs like Medicaid – to provide greater equity to home and community-based care as with more traditional facility care. As Representative, I have supported cutting waste from Medicaid so that there are more dollars available to support all services, including home care.

Martina White (R) – Incumbent (Continued)

Finally – and while not directly linked but definitely impactful to PHA goals – Pennsylvania must address the shortage of medical professionals (particularly nurses) that we continue to face. I support ideas like tuition tax credits to help do this.



Peter Buckland (D) – Challenger

171st Legislative House District | Counties Served: Centre & Mifflin

I would advance or co-sponsor legislation and funding to increase access to home care. We don't need people in facilities unless they need it, especially when we know that the best outcomes can be realized where they are most comfortable.

I am an advocate for Medicaid expansion in terms of people on it and what people should be able to use it for. It increases access to and affordability of healthcare. With lower costs and better outcomes possible at home, we should seriously consider the option of Medicaid covering home and community-based services.

Clearly, the home health care sector will need training programs. I've long been a booster for career and technical schools, professional schools and certification programs in colleges and universities so that people can learn the skills they need for new careers. This isn't just talk: I've taught education courses to teachers seeking certification in the local career and technical school and collaborated with our faculty in Penn State's College of Nursing. [I work at Penn State.] That will, of course, require funding and I would support funding to go to schools at all levels to take this on. I'm also a big supporter of a living wage and health care as a right. So look for me to push for good wages for all workers, including this sector and making sure that Medicaid is paying right.



Wendi Thomas (R) – Incumbent

178th Legislative House District | County Served: Bucks

Throughout my first term in the state House, I have made improving healthcare in Pennsylvania a top priority. While there are many fronts on which to address this issue, I do believe that home and community-based care provides people the option to remain in a familiar environment while dealing with health issues which, in turn, offers positive mental health benefit to them through recovery.

As a legislator, I do believe that we can do more to support and increase access to home and community-based care. As with all things like this though, achieving that goal requires a multi-step process mixing public education of the benefits of home and community-based care with legislative support for increased funding, equity in funding, and addressing the need for more caregivers.

As I continue my efforts to improve healthcare, I will work to place home and community-based care on a more level field with programs like Medicare when it comes to reimbursements, etc. as well as support increased funding within the state's budgetary constraints.

I will also be an advocate for home and community-based care among legislators, my constituents, and the general public because increasing public support for your cause increases legislative focus on it as well.

Wendi Thomas (R) – Incumbent (Continued)

Finally, I will continue to work to address Pennsylvania's shortage of medical professionals through programs like tuition tax credits and forgiveness, retention programs, and more – because addressing this shortage will allow for more care givers to be available for the home and community-based care option.



Ann Marie Mitchell (D) – Challenger

178th Legislative House District | County Served: Bucks

I will continue to support Medicaid expansion and waiver services by expanding eligibility requirements to increase accessibility for those who need it. Increased accessibility also includes streamlining the application process in order to make it less complicated for caregivers to apply for benefits. We need additional investment in tracking/comparing the recipients' needs and the type of HCBS care provided to show where Medicare reimbursements are most effective and best able to meet the needs of the individuals being served. We also need investment in funding for alternative ways of providing care, for example, technology that will allow continued care during the pandemic such as telehealth, and for family caregivers to approved to provide services and get reimbursed by Medicaid (when appropriate and safe) when the home care worker is not available.

I will support legislation that will provide similar tax credits to HCBS facilities as given to institutions and grants to help recipients in institutions transition safely back to their communities. I will commit to the support of the shift of Medicaid spending from institutions to HCBS to match the current increase in demand for HCBS. Recipients should be receiving the same amount of Medicaid for their HCBS as they were receiving while in institutions.

I will support legislation that will increase the minimum wage, increase funding leading to better quality services and training, and improve implementation of safety measures for both the staff and participants.



Drew Murray (R) – Challenger

182nd Legislative House District | County Served: Philadelphia

I would need more information detailing the fact that home care is in fact less than a nursing facility to support. If home care proven to be less, then I would support reallocating funding to home care.

Again, I would need more details proving that home care is less expensive. In addition, I would need details on how protocols could be set in place to ensure that the program is not being abused for economic gains.

I believe that the market should determine wages and minimum wages should not be set for any industry.



Regina Young (D) – Open Seat

185th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Delaware & Philadelphia

I will advocate for expanding access to home and community-based services so independence will not be lost by individuals. I will work with those groups that are seeking services and service providers to better understand and learn to support in meaningful and sustaining ways. Equipping and training individuals with skills to be able to adequately and effectively support the identified groups along with stabilizing their own households are important. Access and education for both parties are essential because it will be beneficial. Information is power, so the service provider and the individual should be required to take a training/tutorial to ensure knowledge of the expectation. I will work on legislation pertaining to this matter. Knowledge matters.



Michael Blicher (D) – Challenger

187th Legislative House District | Counties Served: Berks & Lehigh

When elected to office, one of my major duties will be to help all Pennsylvanians stay safe and healthy in addition to providing the necessary recovery bills and funding needed to put the Commonwealth back on the right track and make it even better for all people including seniors and those with disabilities. In addition to greater funding for home and community-based services from the state level, I would also take action to implement policy changes such as reduced admissions. I would also provide funding for a Money Follows the Person program which moves folks out of nursing homes and back into the community, into their homes, or into the homes of loved ones. In addition to this, I would implement procedures that allow for employees who work on transitioning individuals from nursing homes to the community access to their clients. I also would work to expand our participation in the Fairweather Lodge Program that helps veterans who were homeless or in restrictive settings.

As I have stated in my previous answer, I am a supporter of ending institutional bias in the Medicaid program once and for all. Historically Medicaid was biased towards serving people in an institutional setting instead of their own home. The Money Follows the Person program which I will support helps to create financial flexibility to allow any needed services to follow an individual into their own community. I will also actively advocate for federal officials that represent our area to also address this issue at a federal level.

It is exciting that early in September the PA Department of Labor and Industry announced a \$4 million grant in Direct Care Worker Training Grants to improve the quality of care provided by direct care workers while creating opportunities for them to build and earn family-sustaining wages. Many of these jobs are filled by women who often receive low wages in this field. As a State Representative, I will continue to work to ensure that funding is provided to create more career opportunities and that we are working with partners and networks to create apprenticeships and training opportunities in local communities. During this pandemic the quality of care and safety of workers must be maintained. I would also implement a standardized core training for direct care workers as recommended by the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council. I will also support Medicaid reimbursements that ensure higher wage levels.

Pennsylvania State House of Representatives



Joanna McClinton (D) – Incumbent

191st Legislative House District | Counties Served: Delaware & Philadelphia

Healthcare studies show that individuals get the best care, and age in a safer way, when they are able to remain in their homes. I support examining all efforts to promote home healthcare so that all Pennsylvanians can have access to this quality of care. Simply, home health care ensures that our most vulnerable populations; the sick, elderly, and disabled, have access to skilled healthcare providers where they are most comfortable.

My approach includes legislative and budgetary solutions to eliminate any institutional Medicaid bias against home healthcare providers, allowing them to be on equal-footing with institutions for the purpose of Medicaid eligibility.

Additionally, I have been a long-time supporter of raising the wage for healthcare providers. This can be accomplished through organized labor such as SEIU or legislation.

These critical issues, and how to best empower home healthcare providers, are at the forefront of my mind as we approach the fall election and the 2021-2022 legislative session.



Danilo Burgos (D) – Incumbent

197th Legislative House District | County Served: Philadelphia

I believe that during these times it is imperative we expand access to home and community-based services for seniors and those with disabilities. Central to this is removing the institutional bias in the Medicaid program and I would vocally support such an initiative. One component of that would be telemedicine. I am a sponsor on HB15, which authorizes the regulation of telemedicine by professional licensing boards and would provide insurance coverage for the telemedicine itself.

To increase funding, I believe we have to increase our tax base by bringing good paying jobs to the Commonwealth. This will make it possible to more easily invest in the direct care workforce and provide higher fair wages. I will be vocal in my support to support the challenges we are facing in home and community-based services.



Barbara Gleim (R) – Incumbent

199th Legislative House District | County Served: Cumberland

The past six months under the pandemic have shown the importance of multiple choices and avenues for elderly care within our Commonwealth. Home health, home care and hospice services have been utilized to a much greater extent, highlighting the needs for these services.

I support investing in the direct care workforce by promoting career pathways in both primary and secondary education, and adult learning opportunities. As a member of both the House Education Committee and the Labor and Industry Committee, we know we must prepare and recruit front line workers, not only for the safety and health of our communities under covid-19, but because we are the 3rd oldest state in the nation and we don't have enough workers to fill the void.

Barbara Gleim (R) – Incumbent (Continued)

I also support expanding access to home and community-based services by cosponsoring HB 51, which extends “presumptive eligibility” to those who meet the qualifications for Medicaid and who wish to remain in their homes instead of a long term care facility or nursing home. Currently, if an individual wishes to receive in-home care, they must wait until the application is fully approved, which takes months and often times this delay also delays much needed services.

I have been working extensively through the House Human Services Committee to create a fair and equitable Medicaid disability waiver system throughout our state. Chairman Murt, Anne Couldridge of CPARC in our South Central region, and I have met to discuss the vast disparity of funding that exists, and correct the funding formula for our most vulnerable disabled citizens. Currently, Cumberland County has the highest increase in population over the last eight years, yet the Medicaid waiver funding to the county has stayed the same. This fact has negatively impacted disabled senior care living in our region.



Janelle Crossley (D) – Challenger

199th Legislative House District | County Served: Cumberland

Cutting Medicaid or radically changing its financing structure — for example to a per capita cap as in recent congressional Republican proposals to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) — would threaten the essential services and other assistance that seniors rely on to maintain their health and independence. Instead of placing a cap on Medicaid, I would support positive state innovations that improve coverage for seniors. Medicaid

also provides home- and community-based services, such as personal and attendant care services that help seniors stay independent. These long-term services and supports are unavailable through Medicare and are far too costly for most seniors and their families to fund out of pocket. Seniors can also get services through Medicaid that Medicare covers to a lesser extent, such as home health care, durable medical equipment, mental health and therapy services, and some dental services.

The Affordable Care Act provides states with options for expanding Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and the primary focus is on implementing the Medicaid expansion. This focus, combined with the administrative challenges of managing a fragmented long-term services and supports (LTSS) system, makes it difficult for states to fully utilize all of the HCBS options to rebalance Medicaid and end the institutional bias.

I will support or write legislation to make it easier for states to take advantage of additional federal funds to rebalance Medicaid to help people live in the community. We need to examine how these authorities can be stitched together to make it easier to provide HCBS. Any solution must have increased federal incentives to address variations in program design across states and the unique challenges state budgets face in managing enrollment.

There is a need for far more direct care workers. Low wages, limited professional development opportunities, and demanding workloads have all hindered the appeal of joining the direct care workforce. They have also affected providers' ability to retain workers. Moreover, insufficient training requirements leave direct care workers unprepared to care for clients with complex needs.

Janelle Crossley (D) – Challenger (Continued)

As direct care workers take on even greater workloads to make up for staff shortages, mistakes become more common, resulting in patients experiencing preventable infections, accidents, and possibly death. Strengthening the workforce can also help states expand access to home- and community-based services (HCBS), furthering efforts to improve patient satisfaction and increase the value for each dollar spent on LTSS.

As the State Representative for the 199th I will assure Pennsylvania supports the existing direct care workforce while increasing the number of available workers and take innovative approaches to addressing workforce shortages, including implementing payment reform to incentivize workforce initiatives. Additionally, I will support increased wages and investment in workforce development and training in order to attract and retain direct care workers. In order to meet the growing demand for LTSS, I will prioritize policy changes addressing workforce challenges implementing meaningful reform.

Editor's Note

Candidate responses are unedited. They have been reprinted as submitted.

