



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHA Highlights Caregiving Crisis in Response to Governor's Budget Proposal

Harrisburg (February 8, 2022) – Teri Henning, CEO of the Pennsylvania Homecare Association, issued the following statement in response to Governor Wolf's budget proposal.

“Although Governor Wolf's budget proposal recognizes the need for additional funding and workforce support for home and community-based services, it is critical that additional funding – beyond that already allocated by the federal government in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – be committed to in-home care.

“In-home providers care for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians in their homes each year. Over the last two years, these caregivers have faced extraordinary challenges – including a lack of funding and supports – in continuing to provide quality care to so many in need. Although staffing shortages exist across the healthcare continuum, the strain on home-based caregivers is particularly severe, due to chronic underfunding and an inability to compete on wages with many of their facility-based counterparts.

“The Pennsylvania Homecare Association urges the Wolf Administration and General Assembly to recognize the vital role that in-home providers play in the delivery of care and commit additional funding to home-based services. Properly funded home care is critical to keeping individuals out of hospitals and other facilities and allowing those facilities to discharge individuals to the safety and comfort of their own homes, saving facility beds for those who absolutely need them.

“Ninety-three percent of PHA's home health members and 98% in homecare are refusing referrals due to staffing shortages. Collectively, they require thousands of additional caregivers just to meet the needs of their current patients and consumers. Without additional funding and supports, the entire healthcare continuum is at risk, threatening access to quality care for many of Pennsylvania's seniors and individuals with disabilities.

“Investments must be made in this year's budget, to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to allow home-based care providers to recruit and retain a sufficient number of quality caregivers to keep Pennsylvanians safe in their homes and communities.

“Home care IS healthcare, and the time to address the in-home health care workforce crisis is now.

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

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