



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Fails to Invest in Home Care Workforce in 2022-23 Budget

Harrisburg (July 13, 2022) – Teri Henning, CEO of the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA), issued the following statement in response to the passage of the 2022-23 Pennsylvania state budget.

“Despite overwhelming support to keep Pennsylvania’s seniors and individuals with disabilities at home, this year’s budget failed to include funding to increase reimbursement rates for in-home care services to help address the crisis-level shortage of home caregivers.

“Although we appreciate that the budget included funds for one-time COVID-19 funding, the lack of funding for reimbursement rates will put an even greater strain on a program that provides life-sustaining services to more than 100,000 Pennsylvanians and has been stretched to the limit. Without additional funding or support, the Medicaid reimbursement rates for these services will remain stagnant into 2023, creating an even larger gap in a chronically underfunded program.

“Under today’s Medicaid rates, Pennsylvania’s direct care workers earn an average of just \$13.40 an hour, during a time of record high inflation, exorbitant gas prices, and an extremely competitive labor market. As a result, in-home care providers continue to face inordinate hurdles in their efforts to recruit and retain enough qualified caregivers to meet the current demand.

“Home-based care relies on the direct care workforce to remain sustainable. The decision to not recognize these caregivers’ worth in this year’s budget puts Pennsylvanians at risk.

“Time and again, in-home care proves its value, both in consumer preference, health outcomes, and cost-savings to the Commonwealth. We urge Pennsylvania’s decisionmakers to commit to funding to support these critical caregivers and help to keep the 100,000+ Pennsylvanians they serve safe at home.

***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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Contact:

Kim Whetsell

(412) 926-0064

kwhetsell@pahomecare.org