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NEWS RELEASE

Pennsylvania Homecare Association Leads National Effort to Increase Access to Home-Based Care for Seniors, Adults with Disabilities

Washington, D.C. (July 12, 2016) – Homecare and hospice professionals from the Pennsylvania Homecare Association, leading a national coalition of members from 19 state homecare associations, are converging on Washington, D.C. today and tomorrow for the first-ever Public Policy Summit and Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill.

The Summit today, which is sponsored by the Council of State Home Care Associations, includes policy discussions, presentations from federal bureaus on regulatory and payment issues, and insights from D.C. political insiders. One of the presenters will be Mike Nardone, who formerly served as Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and Deputy Secretary of the state's Office of Medical Assistance Programs and now heads up the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG). [Click here](#) for the Summit's full agenda.

Tomorrow, homecare professionals will be out in force on Capitol Hill, meeting with the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to educate them about the value and importance of home-based care. The main issues for discussion include increasing access and lowering costs for Medicaid home-based care, opposing home health rebasing cuts from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and preventing the implementation of a home health co-payment. [Click here](#) to view one-pagers with more information on these issues.

“This week is a perfect time for state homecare associations and their members to get the attention of lawmakers and federal officials on core payment and regulatory issues before they leave for summer recess” said Vicki Hoak, Chief Executive Officer of the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA) and chair of the Council of State Home Care Associations, which collectively includes 37 constituent state associations representing homecare providers across the country. “This first-ever summit brings hundreds of provider representatives to Washington, along with the leadership of their state home care associations, for a collective voice and problem-solving.

“Medicare and Medicaid play important roles in caring for our older citizens and adults with disabilities. Medicare pays for physician visits, hospitalizations, prescription drugs and home health and hospice, while each state's Medicaid program covers most of the cost for nursing home care and home and community-based services through various waivers,” she added. “This is a critical time for homecare. As federal and state governments seek to cut costs, more and more people are coming to rely on home-based care. We can be the solution. Home-based care costs less, and is the more preferred option...a win-win for all.”

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

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