



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT

Pa. Homecare Association CEO Comments on Governor's Proposal for Health & Human Services Department

Lemoine, Pa. (January 31, 2017) – Vicki Hoak, CEO of the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA), issued the following statement in response to Gov. Tom Wolf's plan to consolidate four state agencies - Aging, Health, Human Services, and Drug and Alcohol Programs - under a proposed Department of Health and Human Services:

“Put simply, coordinated care is better care. It is our hope that this new streamlined department will allow more seniors, people with disabilities and children with complex medical conditions to remain at home, with their families.

“Our home health, hospice and private duty homecare providers are all licensed by the Department of Health. Many provide services under the Medicaid HealthChoices program and the home and community-based services waivers under the Department of Human Services. And many provide care to seniors under the Lottery-funded OPTIONS program through the Department of Aging.

“It is our hope that this consolidation will allow for better coordination and smoother care transitions, as well as a synchronization of the rules under each separate department currently that governs home-based care.

“PHA looks forward to learning more about the specifics of the new department, and offers to be a resource to the Wolf Administration as they implement this plan.”

***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.*

###

Contact:

Jennifer Haggerty
(717) 975-9448, ext. 22
jhaggerty@pahomecare.org