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NEWS RELEASE

Nearly 300 Home-Based Care Advocates Tell Legislators to Protect Seniors & Make It Easier for Them to Choose Care at Home

Harrisburg, Pa. (May 22, 2018) – Nearly 300 providers of home-based care for seniors, adults with disabilities and children with complex medical conditions visited the state Capitol in Harrisburg today with the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA) to meet with Pennsylvania’s state lawmakers and members of Governor Wolf’s administration. Providers, caregivers, and patients shared their personal stories about how most people prefer to receive care at home, with their family, rather than go into nursing homes. However, current Medicaid regulations make that difficult.

“Today, homecare agencies across the state cannot cover the cost of providing care and services to seniors in their homes,” said PHA President Pattie Rodgers. “In the last six months alone, there have been increases in the fees for state police background checks and child abuse clearances. The cost of hiring just one worker will be \$43 more in 2019, yet Medicaid rates are still the same.”

“In addition, Pennsylvania has the dubious honor of having the longest Medicaid eligibility process of all states in the country for home-based care, said PHA CEO Vicki Hoak. “It can take six to nine months for an individual to be found eligible for Medicaid-funded home-based care, even though it costs just half as much as a nursing home. Yet, nursing homes presume an individual’s financial eligibility and homecare providers currently cannot. We need to modernize our Medicaid eligibility rules.”

During meetings with nearly all 253 state legislators, advocates asked for support of:

- A 10% increase for Medicaid homecare rates to make it easier for seniors to stay at home. Providers that offer this same type of care to clients with intellectual disabilities are receiving more than \$32 per hour. Why are seniors treated differently? [Click for details.](#)
- A bill (H.B. 1829), which would allow deemed Medicaid eligibility for home-based care so individuals can receive services immediately. [Click for details.](#)
- Amendments to the Older Adult Protective Services Act (OAPSA) to protect seniors at home. There are laws in place to protect children and animals. So why have we let seniors, our most vulnerable population, go without protection for almost three years? [Click for details.](#)

***About PHA...** The Pennsylvania Homecare Association is a statewide organization of more than 700 homecare, home health 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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Contact:

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