



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **More than 250 Home-Based Care Advocates Tell Legislators, Administration Officials There's No Place Like Home!**

**Harrisburg, Pa. (April 25, 2017)** – More than 250 providers of home-based care to seniors, adults with disabilities and children with complex medical conditions visited the state Capitol in Harrisburg today to meet with Pennsylvania's state lawmakers and members of Governor Wolf's administration. Providers, caregivers, families, consumers and patients shared their personal stories about how care at home has helped themselves or their loved ones stay at home, in the community, with their family.

"We are proud to stand together today with all types of people, young and old, representing the home-based care community – from providers and managers, to direct care workers, nurses and therapists, to patients, consumers and their families," said PHA President Pattie Rodgers "Quite simply, there is no place like home. We are advocating today for the 67,000 seniors and people with disabilities who choose to receive Medicaid services at home to ensure their services can begin as quickly as someone who is admitted to a nursing home."

"At a time when the Commonwealth's budget is so strained, why are we paying for more expensive care in a facility, when not only is homecare cheaper, but it is also where people want to be," said PHA CEO Vicki Hoak.

#### ***The Issues:***

- Current Medicaid reimbursement for homecare agencies, which ranges from \$17.52 to \$19.52 per hour, is woefully inadequate and does not cover the actual cost of providing in-home care. Agencies struggle to pay livable wages, not to mention taxes, workers' comp and liability insurance, health insurance and benefits, and training. Advocates are asking Pennsylvania are asking lawmakers to standardize the Medicaid reimbursement rate for personal assistance services across the state and a 10% rate increase, establishing a statewide rate of \$20.58 per hour. [Click for details.](#)
- The door to in-home care is closed to some seniors and adults with disabilities due to stringent and outdated Medicaid rules that make it easier to go into a nursing home than stay in your own home. For individuals entering a nursing home, county assistance offices can quickly look at their financial information, determine that they are presumptively eligible and allow them to begin receiving care while the remainder of the paperwork is processed. This expedited process is not available to those who wish to stay at home. Advocates support legislation that would update Medicaid rules to allow presumptive eligibility for home-based care. [Click for details.](#)
- Home-based care advocates also asked legislators to support several pieces of legislation that would support people who choose to stay at home to receive care, including a bill to update Medicaid income rules, a bill to ensure a patient's end-of-life wishes are respected, and a bill to revise the Older Adult Protective Services Act to protect our seniors. [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](http://www.pahomecare.org).*

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