



Minnesota Home Care Association

May 6, 2022

Dear Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill Conference Committee Members:

I'd like to thank you for the proposed investments in home care in the House and Senate HHS Omnibus bills. These investments will strengthen access to home care services for older Minnesotans and those with disabilities around the state. I am asking you to please advocate for the following home care provisions to be passed this session:

- An increase in the reimbursement rate for **home health aide visits, home health services and home care nursing services**, included in the Senate HHS Omnibus bill.
- Investments in the **Personal Care Assistance program**, included in both the House and Senate HHS Omnibus bills.
- Reform of the rate setting system for **Homemaker Services**, included in both the House and Senate HHS Omnibus bills.
- The establishment of a separate reimbursement rate for the specific **care evaluation-related home care visits** that take much longer than other visits, included in the House HHS Omnibus bill.

Our state has a rapidly growing number of Minnesotans who, without access to home care services, will have to turn to more intensive and expensive facility-based care such as hospitals and long-term care settings. We know this is not the preferred option for most Minnesotans AND our state budget cannot afford to provide that more intensive level of care to all who will need it. The current low Medical Assistance reimbursement rates make it extremely challenging to pay a sufficient wage, which means that Minnesotans in need of these home-based services aren't able to access them or are not able to get all needed hours of care filled. The provisions above aimed at addressing these very low reimbursement rates will help increase access to home care services. Please work to pass the above provisions into law this session, it will truly make a difference for older Minnesotans and those with disabilities around the state.

Please reach out to me with any questions or follow up and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Messerli".

Kathy Messerli

Executive Director

kmesserli@mnhomocare.org

Mission: MHCA represents and supports Minnesota home care providers committed to high quality home care services.

Vision: MHCA will shape the home care landscape to improve and sustain quality care services.

2550 University Ave. W., Ste. 350 S, St. Paul, MN 55114 / P: 651.635.0607 / Toll-free: 866.607.0607 / F: 651.635.0043 / www.mnhomocare.org