**WiAHC Action Alert:** *Sample E-mail to Legislators*

**Subject Line: Please Support Medicaid Increase for Home Health Care**

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

As your constituent and a member of the Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care (WiAHC), I am writing today to brief you on an extremely important budget-related issue regarding home health care in Wisconsin. Ultimately, **I am respectfully requesting your support for a long-overdue Medicaid rate increase for home health care skilled nursing as part of the 2021-23 state budget bill**.

Skilled home health care offers a wide array of services to treat patient illness or injury, including surgical wound care, monitoring chronic illness, and administrating intravenous therapy – all of which must be initiated by a physician’s order. But what truly makes home health care unique is that these services are provided by skilled non-physician practitioners, such as nurses and physical therapists, in a patient’s home.

Based on my experience, patients would much rather receive care in the comfort of their own homes, where they tend to recover more quickly, have better outcomes, and enjoy an improved quality of life. Home health care also offers patients greater convenience and is typically less expensive then care they would receive in an institutional setting. It the long run, it reduces costs for patients, private payers, and the Wisconsin Medicaid program.

Unfortunately, despite the many benefits of home health care, **the Wisconsin Medicaid reimbursement rate for skilled nursing in a home setting has not been increased in over a decade.** This makes it difficult to operate home health care agencies and threatens our viability due to the significant workforce retention and patient access challenges it creates. For more information, I would urge you to read a recently published opinion piece on the growing crisis within the home health care industry: [“Limited workforce leads to limited care capacity”](https://madison.com/ct/opinion/column/lisa-kirker-limited-workforce-leads-to-limited-care-capacity/article_fa2dae04-b3b0-5485-b6f4-719d87030504.html).

With that in mind, **I encourage you and your colleagues in the Legislature to increase the reimbursement rate for home health skilled nursing services to $94.10.** Even that modest additional investment will have a significant impact on home health care in Wisconsin. It will serve to strengthen our workforce, increase patient access to care, and reduce Medicaid costs by shifting certain patients away from expensive institutional-care facilities for post-acute care.

Thank you for taking time to read my e-mail and for your consideration of my request to support Wisconsin’s home health care agencies and the patients we serve. Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Name

Home Address

Phone # *(optional)*