



Wisconsin Health Care Association

Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living

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Long-Term Care Providers Across Wisconsin Support Veto Override of AB-76

“This bill would help encourage more people to enter this field at a time when we need to take steps to empower more people to become CNAs.”

WISCONSIN – Assembly Leadership announced Monday that the Assembly will vote to override Governor Evers’ veto of Assembly Bill 76 on Wednesday. The bill would conform Wisconsin’s Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) hourly training requirement with the federal standard of 75 hours.

Every day, long-term care providers go to work to advance their mission of providing high-quality care to the frail elderly and persons with disabilities in Wisconsin. Providers in every corner of the state have voiced their support for this legislation as a way to help address the ongoing caregiver workforce shortage. If action is not taken, this workforce crisis could severely limit access to care for the most vulnerable individuals in Wisconsin. Many providers have been forced to limit admissions – despite beds being available – because they do not have the CNA staff needed to care for more residents.

Providers view Assembly Bill 76 as an important measure to help long-term care providers bring more CNAs on staff. Below are quotes from providers across Wisconsin on the need to enact Assembly Bill 76 into law:

Mindy Meehan, Director of Nursing – Wausau Manor, Wausau, WI:

“Assembly Bill 76 is an important bill to make the CNA profession more financially available for potential applicants. The current CNA hourly training requirement creates a financial obstacle that leads many interested candidates to look for jobs elsewhere. If enacted into law, this bill would help facilities attract new CNAs, which will help reduce burnout among current CNAs and nurse leadership who are constantly stretched too thin and asked to work extra hours to fill vacant shifts. Enacting AB-76 would be an important change to help providers maintain quality care for our residents.”

Josh Theis, Executive Director – Green Bay Health Services, Green Bay, WI:

“The caregiver shortage in Wisconsin is at a crisis level that is negatively impacting access for our frailest, sickest citizens. Assembly Bill 76 is an important bill to remove a roadblock to becoming a CNA in Wisconsin. This policy is a step in the right direction to address the caregiver shortage in Wisconsin, and the Assembly should vote to override the veto of this bill.”

Sharon Schultz, Executive Director, Deb Klatkiewicz, Quality Consultant – Park Manor, Park Falls, WI:

“Assembly Bill 76 would be a major step forward in attracting qualified CNAs to work in long-term care. This policy would enable facilities across Wisconsin to hire and introduce CNAs more expeditiously into the face-to-face experience of caring for their residents. Failing to enact this

legislation into law would have unfortunate consequences for Wisconsin's long-term care providers and the residents we serve."

Kevin Larson, Administrator – Spring Valley Health & Rehab, Spring Valley, WI:
"Being a CNA is a noble profession that is difficult, yet incredibly rewarding. I value our CNA staff who come to work every day ready to provide excellent care to our residents. This bill would help encourage more people to enter this field at a time when we need to take steps to empower more people to become CNAs. This bill would also be a huge help to Wisconsin providers bordering Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan remain competitive for CNAs, since those states all use the federal requirement as well. Providers encourage members of the Assembly to support a veto override."

Melissa Walthall, Administrator – Park View Community Campus, Woodville, WI:
"Providers across the state are facing a critical caregiver workforce shortage which, if left unaddressed, could severely limit access to care for the most vulnerable individuals in Wisconsin. As a facility near the border, this bill would help us compete for CNA candidates with facilities in Minnesota, which would help us advance quality of care by getting more CNAs onto the floor."

Mike Jones, Executive Director – Willowcrest Health Services, South Milwaukee, WI:
"Everyone can agree that our most vulnerable elderly and sick need access to quality care. This bill would help improve that care by assisting us to get more CNAs on the floor, caring for patients."

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The Wisconsin Health Care Association (WHCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing, protecting and advancing the interests of Wisconsin's long-term and post-acute care provider community and the residents they serve. The Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WiCAL) is a division of WHCA that advocates for assisted living facilities by helping our members provide the highest quality services to the Badger State's frail and elderly citizens.