



Wisconsin Personal Services Association, Inc.

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In-Home Care Providers Applaud Investment in Personal Care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Wisconsin Personal Services Association applauds the Joint Finance Committee for voting to increase personal care funding by nearly \$78 million. This is the second budget in a row that includes a significant investment to support personal care workers who provide in-home care to older adults and people with disabilities.

“We are grateful to lawmakers for their continued support of Wisconsin’s caregivers. This investment acknowledges the value of personal care workers, who have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said WPSA President Todd Costello.

Personal care agencies are in desperate need of relief due to severe recruitment and retention issues, which are leaving many people without care. Over 50% of agencies surveyed by WPSA currently have seven or more open caregiver positions while 1 in 3 agencies have more than 10 open positions. Many agencies report losing caregivers to Kwik Trip, Walmart and fast food restaurants because they can offer higher wages.

“We have heard from personal care agencies across the state that people are missing meals, sleeping in their wheelchairs or spending hours in soiled clothing due to the severe shortage of personal care workers,” said Costello. “The increased funding will help agencies raise wages so that they can find and keep quality caregivers.”

Agencies that provide in-home care have also been required to implement the unfunded Electronic Visit Verification mandate in the middle of the pandemic, which has drastically increased costs. WPSA is advocating for federal stimulus funds to be used to help agencies meet the infrastructure and technology costs associated with EVV.

“WPSA appreciates the ongoing support of Wisconsin’s caregiver workforce from the Legislature and Governor Evers. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure access to cost-effective, personal care services,” said WPSA Legislative Chair Todd Costello.

The Wisconsin Personal Services Association (WPSA) is a statewide association of personal care and other home care providers. WPSA has educated, advocated, and united agencies and individuals in all Wisconsin counties for 30 years to provide quality personal/supportive home care services to over 10,000 consumers and as many, if not more, direct care workers.

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