



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT**

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### **Assisted Living Commends Joint Finance Committee Actions**

#### **Legislature Invests Additional Funding to Help Address Long-Term Caregiver Shortage Crisis**

*“We are truly grateful to the Joint Finance Committee for investing an additional \$104 million over the biennium in direct care workforce funding,” stated Michael Pochowski, President & CEO. “The actions tonight are an investment in the actual hands-on caregivers – the most important factor in providing quality care to frail elderly individuals and those with disabilities.”*

The Joint Committee on Finance during its June 15, 2021 budget deliberations on the Department of Health Services – Medical Assistance, voted on an omnibus motion that provides an additional \$26 million over what was originally proposed for the next biennial budget, with a total increase of \$104 million over the 2021-2023 biennium (Legislative Fiscal Bureau [Budget Paper #337](#), Alternative #3).

The Direct Care Workforce Funding Initiative provides increases for the direct care and services component of the Family Care program capitation rates to offer much needed wage increases for long-term care caregivers. Family Care is a state Medicaid waiver program that provides and pays for long-term care services for Wisconsin’s most vulnerable populations of frail elderly and individuals with disabilities. This action will target critically needed increases to address the long-term care workforce crisis. As of April 1, 2021, there were over 50,000 individuals who rely on Family Care for care and services. ([DHS: Family Care, Family Care Partnership & PACE Enrollment Data](#))

#### **About the Wisconsin Assisted Living Association (WALA)**

The Wisconsin Assisted Living Association is a statewide association for Wisconsin’s assisted living industry. WALA represents over 1,500 Wisconsin’s assisted living facilities and their residents. WALA promotes standards of quality care and provides valuable member services to organizations providing assisted living services. WALA leads the profession with advocacy, educational programs, professional products and tools, and other member quality resources.

WALA’s mission is to support providers in enhancing the best quality of life for residents in assisted living in Wisconsin through advocacy, education, communication, and quality initiatives.

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