



Wisconsin Health Care Association

Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living

For Immediate Release:
June 16, 2021

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WHCA/WiCAL: JFC Budget Supports Wisconsin Caregivers
Committee Approves Funding Increases for Long-Term Care Providers

MADISON – The Wisconsin Health Care Association and Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WHCA/WiCAL) today thanked the Joint Finance Committee for approving significant budget increases to support long-term care in Wisconsin.

The committee approved \$252.4 million all funds over the biennium, including a state investment of \$98 million, in nursing home reimbursement rates. This equates to a 12% increase in each year of the biennium for Wisconsin’s nursing home providers. In the Family Care program, JFC approved a total of \$104.2 million all funds over the biennium, including a state investment of \$40 million, for the Direct Care Workforce Fund program. Between state and federal dollars, this amounts to more than \$356 million all funds in new money to Wisconsin’s long-term care providers.

“Today’s vote to increase skilled nursing Medicaid reimbursement and Family Care funding will deliver real, tangible benefits to Wisconsin’s long-term care providers and the frail elderly and residents living with disabilities they serve every day,” said Rick Abrams, President and CEO of WHCA/WiCAL. “Wisconsin’s long-term care providers thank the members of the Joint Finance Committee who have demonstrated their continued commitment to the future of long-term care in Wisconsin.”

These critical funding increases come on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated workforce challenges and left facilities struggling in the face of inadequate Medicaid reimbursement. Across the state, skilled nursing facilities went unreimbursed for nearly \$300 million of allowable Medicaid costs in 2019, leaving less funds available to pay caregiving staff as skilled nursing facilities struggle to stay afloat.

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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.