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**Joint Committee on Finance Votes to Increase MA Rates for Home Health Care
WiAHC is Grateful for Committee's Actions**

MADISON – On June 15, the legislature's Joint Committee on Finance voted to increase Medicaid rates for skilled nursing services provided by home health care agencies by 10-percent. The Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care (WiAHC) advocated for a rate increase for nearly two years and is grateful for the committee's action. If it receives final passage and is signed into law by Governor Evers, the increase will be the first in nearly a dozen years.

Due to in part Medicaid rates in Wisconsin, home health agencies struggle to attract sufficient nursing workforce. As growth in the utilization of home health care services continue, today's workforce challenges will only worsen without a rate increase. The committee's actions mark a significant step forward in addressing this issue.

"WiAHC thanks the Joint Committee on Finance for its commitment to our agencies the patients we serve," said WiAHC Board Chair Lisa Kirker. "We are particularly grateful to Senator Mary Felzkowski and Representative Amy Loudenberg in their leadership on this issue. Their work was invaluable in ensuring a rate increase passed the committee."

WiAHC now turns its effort to ensuring the final budget bill proposal passes both houses of the legislature and is signed into law by Governor Evers.

"While the committee's actions are incredibly important, WiAHC needs Governor Evers to sign the budget bill to ensure the increased rate takes effect. Our workforce deserves it," said Kirker.

The Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care (WiAHC) is a membership-based association that represents home health care agencies and their staff. WiAHC helps to support the common interests of its members to promote home health care as a quality, cost-effective health care option in our state. Home health care services are not the same as personal care services. Home health care services are medical, skilled nursing services as opposed to personal care services administered by non-health care professionals.

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