



21 Long-Term Care Stakeholder Organizations Support an 11% Increase to Personal Care

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Twenty-one long-term care stakeholder organizations sent a letter to the Joint Finance Committee members Monday advocating for an 11% increase to the Medicaid personal care rate to prevent the collapse of the personal care provider network.

The groups represent a broad cross-section of long-term care stakeholders including aging and disability advocacy organizations and providers. They are concerned by the severity of the personal care shortage and its impact on older adults and people with disabilities in Wisconsin who need in-home caregiving services.

“Wisconsin has reached a critical moment in the personal care shortage,” said Wisconsin Personal Services Association President Amy Weiss. “Without an 11% increase to the personal care rate, agencies will keep closing and people will be up-rooted from their homes and communities with no option but to seek support in more expensive and restrictive settings.”

Analysis shows that the personal care provider network is in jeopardy and that older adults and people with disabilities cannot access the care they need to live in their own homes:

- 80 personal care agencies have either closed or stopped providing Medicaid personal care services during the past six years.
- 24 counties currently have five or fewer Medicaid-certified personal care agencies.
- 60% of personal care providers surveyed say they are considering no longer providing Medicaid personal care.

- 100% of personal care agencies report turning away older adults and people with disabilities in need of care during the past year.
- 70% of agencies report that clients have had to re-locate to a more restrictive setting like a nursing home.

The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee will vote on the proposed personal care rate increase on Tuesday, June 4.

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