



October 22, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Eric Ostermann

Executive Director, Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care, Inc.

[Eric@badgerbay.co](mailto:Eric@badgerbay.co)

**Wisconsin Home Health Industry to Testify on Medicaid Rates**  
*Stagnant Rates Create Crisis in Industry*

MADISON – On Wednesday, October 23, the State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will hold a public hearing on [Senate Bill 416](#), which would increase Medicaid rates for home health care services by 10%. The Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care (WiAHC) is eager to testify in favor of the bill and educate legislators on the need for increased rates.

Home health agencies need Medicaid rates to keep up with healthcare costs in order to staff agencies and provide low-cost, high-quality healthcare to patients in need. The demand for home health services is only going to increase. Today, over 14 million Americans receive home health care services through public, commercial, and private pay. In 2025 an additional 1.3 million people will require home health services. Wisconsin needs to address the lagging Medicaid reimbursement rate for home health agencies in order to ensure agencies can adequately provide services to the growing need.

While healthcare inflation has grown 32.3%, Wisconsin's Medicaid reimbursement rate for home health services has increased 0% over the last decade. Due to lower reimbursement rates for skilled nursing services than other sectors of the health care industry, Wisconsin's home health agencies now face an impending nursing workforce shortage crisis. In Wisconsin, Registered Nurses (RNs) are already disproportionately represented in nearly all other areas within the healthcare industry. RNs working in home health settings make up just 6% of the total nursing workforce in the state, according to the Wisconsin Center for Nursing. Nationally, RNs working in home health settings make up nearly 13% of the total nursing workforce, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WiAHC members are grateful for the opportunity to testify and look forward to speaking to legislators on this important piece of legislation.

The Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care is a membership-based association that represents home health care agencies and their staff across the state. Wisconsin's home care agencies provide care to Wisconsin residents throughout the year, and the more than 14,000 garners more than \$386 million in wages. WiAHC members are committed to make sure home health care remains a high-quality, cost-effective health care option in our state.

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