



Wisconsin Health Care Association

Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Allison Cramer, (920) 904-5949

WHCA/WiCAL: Gov. Evers' Budget Proposal Invests in Providers and Caregivers
Proposal Includes Critical Funding for Wisconsin's Long-Term Care Community

MADISON – The Wisconsin Health Care Association and Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WHCA/WiCAL) today thanked Governor Evers for including significant increases in funding and support for the long-term care sector in his 2021-23 State Budget proposal.

“Long-term care providers across the state of Wisconsin thank Governor Evers for including critical investments in long-term care in his 2021-23 budget,” said Rick Abrams, President and CEO of WHCA/WiCAL. “The Governor has shown his strong commitment to our healthcare heroes with his proposal to invest in long-term care.”

The proposal includes essential funding increases in the next biennium. The funding will be critical for the future of long-term care, arriving on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, where providers have been on the frontlines of preventing the spread of the virus to our state's most vulnerable citizens. COVID-19 has exacerbated an ongoing crisis within long-term care: inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates have led to a caregiver workforce shortage, where 1 in 4 caregiver positions remains vacant in Wisconsin, according to a report released in early 2020. Since 2016, 41 skilled nursing facilities have closed their doors, creating access issues throughout the state.

“This funding proposal to increase skilled nursing reimbursement and Family Care funding will deliver real, tangible benefits to long-term care providers and the frail elderly and residents with disabilities they serve every day,” said Abrams. “This critical funding is essential to the future of long-term care in Wisconsin.”

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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. Together, WHCA/WiCAL is the most representative long-term care association in Wisconsin.