



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Much Needed Funding Approved for Long-Term Care Direct Caregivers**

### **Wisconsin Assisted Living Association (WALA) Grateful to Governor Evers & State Legislature**

Governor & Legislature Increase Funding Needed to Address Long-Term Caregiver Shortage Crisis

*“On behalf of Wisconsin’s assisted living profession, we are truly grateful of the actions of Governor Evers, members of the Joint Committee on Finance, Assembly and Senate Leadership, and the many state legislators for providing desperately needed increases into the Direct Care Workforce Funding Initiative,” stated Michael Pochowski, President & CEO. “These added investments will help alleviate the long-term caregiver shortage crisis by allowing assisted living facilities to deliver much needed wage increases to caregivers who care for frail elderly individuals and those with disabilities.”*

#### **Legislative Fiscal Bureau: Comparative Summary of Budget - Governor & Joint Committee on Finance Page 312: Item #8 and Budget Paper #337: Medical Assistance: Family Care Direct Care Workforce Funding**

The Family Care Direct Care Reimbursement initiative funds increases for the direct care and services component of the Family Care program capitation rates to provide much needed wage increases for long-term care caregivers. Family Care is a state Medicaid waiver program that provides and pays for long-term care services for Wisconsin’s most vulnerable populations of frail elderly and individuals with disabilities. This action will target critically needed increases to address the long-term care workforce crisis, which has been exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 and increased wage trends in the general labor market.

Governor Tony Evers had proposed a \$77.8 million (all funds) increase in Medicaid: Family Care – Direct Care Workforce Funding, which the Republican led Joint Finance Committee and State Legislature increased to \$104 million (all funds). Caregivers are the most important factor in providing quality care.

Family Care is a long-term care program that helps frail elders and adults with disabilities. As of May 1, 2021, there were 50,767 individuals who rely on Family Care for care and services.

(<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02370-21may.pdf>)

#### **About the Wisconsin Assisted Living Association (WALA)**

The Wisconsin Assisted Living Association is a statewide association for Wisconsin’s assisted living industry. WALA represents over 1,500 Wisconsin’s assisted living facilities and their residents. WALA promotes standards of quality care and provides valuable member services to organizations providing assisted living services. WALA leads the profession with advocacy, educational programs, professional products and tools, and other member quality resources.

WALA’s mission is to support providers in enhancing the best quality of life for residents in assisted living in Wisconsin through advocacy, education, communication, and quality initiatives.

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