



100 Beard Saw Mill Rd.
Shelton, CT 06484

March 2, 2020

Dear Appropriations Committee Members,

On behalf of All Ways Caring Home Care, I am writing to ask for your support of an 8% reimbursement rate increase for Connecticut's Medicaid Home Care Programs to keep rates in parity with the upcoming increases to the state minimum wage. All Ways Caring HomeCare has been providing personal care, homemaker, and companion services to Connecticut's senior citizens under the Medicaid funded Home Care Program for Elders since 2013. These state funded services allow those we serve to age independently in their preferred home and community-based settings. Our person-centered care assists clients with activities of daily living such as maintaining personal hygiene, toileting, food preparation, bed transfers, and fall prevention. Our services represent a substantial cost savings to the state, as we keep individuals in their home, and out of costly emergency rooms and nursing facilities.

One of the greatest challenges we continue to face is the recruitment and retention of qualified caregivers to carry out the intimate services we provide. Our dedicated caregivers work each and every day to provide our clients with the highest quality of care. Unfortunately, as a result of low state reimbursement rates, we are forced to compete with retail and fast food establishments for workforce. Many of our caregivers are forced to leave their roles to pursue even slightly higher wages in other sectors of our economy. The turnover we experience as caregivers enter and exit their roles has both a business and human cost. Our costs in attracting, training, and retaining caregivers increase as our clients are regularly forced to see new caregivers in their homes.

The annual increases to Connecticut's minimum wage have added extreme cost pressures for our business in the absence of corresponding rate increases. In 2019 we received a 1% rate increase equal to .20 cents per reimbursable hour, while taking on an additional \$1.22 per hour in minimum wage and tax increases. As minimum wage continues to increase in the short term, home care providers like us will be forced to continue scaling back our services if reimbursement rates are not addressed immediately. Connecticut's Medicaid program cannot afford to lose its network of private home care providers, and to avoid this we ask that you support an 8% increase in Medicaid reimbursement for non-skilled home care services in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders this legislative session to keep providers in parity with minimum wage. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuliya Novikava". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yuliya Novikava, Executive Director
All Ways Caring HomeCare