

HOME HEALTH CARE CRISIS

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Reimagining Our Health Systems
NY StateWide Senior Action Council
Virtual Annual Convention 2020
October 13 – 15, 2020



New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc
Improving The Lives of Senior Citizens & Families in NY State
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THE INCREASING NEED FOR HOME CARE SERVICES IN NEW YORK STATE...

❖ **By the year 2030:**

- fully 25% of NYS's population will be 65 years of age or older
- In the US, a whopping 10,000 baby boomers become eligible for Medicare on a daily basis;
- the Age Dependency Ratio in New York State will be down to 2.1 and decreasing as time passes
- There exists a lack of home care workers no matter which county or population setting – urban, suburban, rural

REASONS FOR WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

Low Wages

Unreliable transportation

Low/No Mileage Reimbursement Rates

Lack of Career Path

Lack of Steady Hours

Perceived lack of respect for the workers

HOME CARE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Home Care Workers Not Tested

Home Care Workers Not Receiving Proper Protective Equipment

Home Care Workers not receiving overtime pay

Home Care Workers Not Willing to Put Their Health At Risk

Patients Afraid to Admit Home Care Workers into Their Homes for Fear of Getting Infected

Shortage of Home Care Workforce continues to grow

ACTION

As a result of our advocacy:

Senator Rachel May, Chair of the NYS Committee on Aging has introduced an Innovation Fund Bill that would dedicate \$15 million for the to test Pilot Programs that can be replicated in different areas of the state - a workforce development fund to create pilot programs that can attract people into the field of long-term care

ROUND TABLE

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STATE WIDE
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Join StateWide for a Discussion with Senator Rachel May

NY StateWide Senior Action Council is pleased to announce a discussion with NYS Senate Aging Committee Chair Rachel May on the devastating toll the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on nursing

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NY StateWide Senior Action Council is pleased to announce a discussion with NYS Senate Aging Committee Chair Rachel May on the devastating toll the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on nursing home residents.

- Learn from experts on the quality of care & accountability issues that were systemic concerns preceding the pandemic and that have been worsened in the face of a crisis.
- Hear about the impact on residents and family members from the ban on visitation, including the prohibition on ombudsman visits.
- Understand the challenges facing the long-term care ombuds program and its need for more volunteers.
- Learn about recommendations for improvements and possible strategies for facilitating virtual visitation capabilities in nursing homes during this crisis and beyond.

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THE REIMAGINING LONG-TERM CARE TASK FORCE [\(S8633B/A10836\)](#)

Examine the state of long-term care — home- and facility-based — and limitations that currently hamper quality care. It would look at both pandemic-specific issues as well as long-standing problems that made elder care systems so vulnerable to outbreaks during the crisis. It also would consider potential models for improvement and make recommendations for corrective measures. *(Passed in the Senate)*

MAKING THE CASE FOR A LIVING WAGE FOR HOME CARE WORKERS

The latest Leading Age Report, *Making Care Work Pay*, posits that a home care work force that is paid a living wage (different from the minimum wage) would see:

- higher wages for workers
- less work shortage
- and more local economic growth for a relatively low price. (\$9.4 million nationally)

IN NEW YORK STATE

**New York's Home Care workforce makes up
4.0% or 367,619 of all workers**

**The average annual salary is \$18,600 vs a NYS calculated living
wage of \$32,358 (pre-tax)**

Home Care is the fastest growing sector of the labor force.

**The Public Health Institute reports that by 2026, New York state alone
will have more than 750,000 job openings for home care workers.**

HOME CARE WORKERS

Are:

Mostly female

Largely Immigrants

Many times heads of households

Making Near Poverty Rates

ADVOCACY PROPOSAL

We are working with other advocates to develop a strategy to get funding to ensure 150% of minimum wage for all PAs & home health care workers.

Perhaps a compensation package that is that salary level plus medical benefit.

HELP US

We would like to hear from consumers and providers regarding their ideas on resolving the home care workforce shortage issues.

Please attend tomorrow's legislative panel where the Chairs of Senate and Assembly Health & Aging will be discussing their initiatives with our members

Thank You!