



Minnesota Home Care Association

August 2, 2021

To: Members of the MN Frontline Worker Pay Working Group
From: The MN Home Care Association
Re: The Frontline Work of Home Care Workers

Members of the MN Frontline Worker Pay Working Group,

We are submitting this written testimony on behalf of the MN Home Care Association, a statewide association representing nearly 140 home care agency members who provide hands-on care to older Minnesotans and individuals with disabilities and complex care needs in their homes.

Thank you for your service on the MN Frontline Worker Pay Working Group. We recognize that you face a very challenging task in your charge to make a recommendation for the disbursement of \$250,000,000 in direct financial support to frontline workers. We are incredibly fortunate here in Minnesota to have had many, many individuals step up and continue to carry out their essential, in-person, frontline roles throughout the pandemic.

We are asking that in your deliberations you consider the home care workers across the state who throughout the pandemic continued providing critical in-person hands on care to older Minnesotans and those with disabilities and complex health needs in their homes. Home care services include a collection of services that support Minnesotans to remain living in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. Specifically, home care services include personal care assistance, homemaking and home health aide services, skilled nursing and therapy services.

Home care workers took on the additional risk of entering homes that weren't sanitized in accordance to Covid protocol and caring for individuals that may or may not have been exposed to Covid or Covid-positive. The homemakers, aides and personal care assistants worked for wages that are very low, many of them not receiving benefits nor compensation when time had to be taken off to quarantine. These workers kept on providing these critical services because they wanted to continue best supporting the Minnesotans who rely on home care services for their health and quality of life.

Thank you again for your public service on this working group. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any follow up questions. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of home care workers and the critical and courageous frontline work they carried out throughout the pandemic to ensure the health and safety of older Minnesotans and those with disabilities and complex health needs living in their own homes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathy Messerli'.

Kathy Messerli
Executive Director

Mission: MHCA represents and supports Minnesota home care providers committed to high quality home care services.

Vision: MHCA will shape the home care landscape to improve and sustain quality care services.

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