



October 26, 2021

Joint Legislative Unanticipated Revenue Oversight Committee
Washington State Legislature

Dear Members of the Unanticipated Revenue Oversight Committee:

As long term care stakeholders whose members have been at the frontlines in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, we reach out to you to ask for your continued funding support. As you are likely aware, September was a particularly difficult month with the Delta variant impacting community infection rates, as well as the rates of infection for our workforce and for our residents. As COVID-19 infections appear to be tapering, we anticipate a resurgence in the fall and Winter months as activities and visits move indoors and respiratory infections are more common.

The battle against this virus is costly—we have seen significant increases in the costs for labor in a hyper-competitive labor market, where the cost for PPE, foods, paper products and other goods is also increasing significantly given the ongoing disruptions in the supply chain.

On October 15, the Public Health Emergency was extended for another 90 days, meaning that additional federal funding to the states will be extended through March 2022. This critical funding can and should be utilized to extend the COVID-19 emergency add-on for clients in these long term care settings due to the continued emergency.

The COVID-19 emergency add-on for Medicaid clients in skilled nursing facilities, assisted living centers, adult family homes, in-home care, private duty nursing, and supported living centers has been critically important—and these funds are necessary to address the steep and ongoing increases in costs.

Those necessary add-ons are set to expire on December 31, 2021, before the Legislature convenes to further address this statewide emergency. The disappearance of these add-ons until the Legislature can act, for any period of time, is truly unthinkable and threatens the viability of long term care services in various communities throughout our state.

We are heartened that RCW [43.79.270](#) provides a process to request consideration for continued funding and we reach out today to ask that you approve allocation of these funds.

Today we reached out to Governor Inslee to strongly urge him to request your consideration for continued emergency funding through your Joint Legislative Unanticipated Revenue Oversight Committee, as permitted in RCW [43.79.270](#).

We ask for your support for this request, and for the funding to continue the COVID-19 emergency add-on with the available enhanced federal matching funds intended for relief purposes.

Sincerely,



Deb Murphy, MPA, JD
Chief Executive Officer
LeadingAge Washington



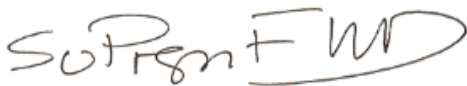
Robin Dale, JD
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Sharla Bode
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cc Amber Leaders, Office of the Governor
 Robyn Williams, Office of the Governor
 Breann Boggs, Office of Financial Management