



June 14, 2021

Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Rep. Matthew Ritter
Speaker of the House
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Martin M. Looney
President Pro Tempore
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont, Senator Looney and Speaker Ritter:

We urgently request that you adequately increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for home care services in the special session to implement the state budget. The current situation is at a critical stage. Rates are inadequate to maintain the necessary home care workforce putting seniors at risk while imposing additional costs to the State.

The successful transition of Connecticut's at-risk elderly from institutional care to home care has saved the state \$508.4 million in fiscal year 2019 and \$2.5 billion over the last fourteen years. This savings was further accelerated by the pandemic last year, yet the cost savings have not been reinvested back to the community providers to allow for further growth and capacity. We need the funding to have an adequate workforce to continue this progress.

While we appreciate the funding appropriated in the budget passed last week, it does not begin to allow home care providers participating in the Medicaid program to provide the necessary level of services to meet the needs of the state's elderly population. With significant Medicaid increases to other parts of the continuum such as nursing homes and group homes, the home care sector have already seen and will continue to see more and more agencies scaling back or ending services altogether to our seniors and disabled. This unbalanced funding will only work in opposition to the state's plan for rebalancing forcing more people to be inappropriately and unhappily institutionalized, at an unnecessary expense to the State.

Home care providers have waited many years for a meaningful rate increase, which we believed would occur this year given the \$2.3 billion state surplus along with federal funding through ARPA and FMAP dollars. We urge you to take action during special session by using these funds to sustain our industry and its goal to keep people in the community—the most cost-effective setting.

We want to continue our partnership with the State to assist our clients and to play a vital role in the long-term Medicaid care system, but we cannot do so unless you act immediately and decisively.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Mark McGoldrick, Chairman
HCAOA Connecticut

Tracy Wodatch, President & CEO
CT Association for Healthcare at Home

Marie L. Allen, Executive Director
Southwestern CT Agency on Aging

Michael Hebert, Exec Director
Western CT Area Agency on Aging

Julie Evans Starr, President
CT Community Care

Melissa Lang, President & CEO
Agency on Aging South Central CT

cc: DSS Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Secretary Melissa McCaw
Senator Bob Duff
Representative Jason Rojas
Senator Kevin Kelly
Representative Vincent Candelora
Senator Catherine A. Osten
Representative Toni E. Walker
Senator Craig Miner
Representative Mike France
Senator Marilyn Moore
Representative Catherine Abercrombie