

# MN Home Care Association Legislation 2022

As a state, we value supporting older Minnesotans and those with disabilities. In order to keep these individuals living in their own homes and to avoid accessing more intensive and expensive care, we must increase access to home care services.

## Improving Home Care Access by Addressing Underfunded Home Care Services: HF 3524 Rep. Klevorn/SF 3277 Sen. Hoffman

While important steps were taken during the 2021 session to begin addressing the low reimbursement rates for home care services, there remain critical services that are significantly underfunded and therefore increasingly challenging for providers to offer. This legislation proposes a collection of changes specifically targeted at addressing some of the most underfunded home care services, in an effort to increase access for Minnesotans in need of these services. The bill allows for the required 'care evaluation' visits to be reimbursed, allows for a limited number of reimbursable "care coordination units", and restructures the reimbursement rate for Homemaker services.

## Preserving the Critical Personal Care Assistance Program: HF 2721 Rep. Lippert/SF 2967 Sen. Utke

Minnesota's Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program is a critical service that supports many Minnesotans to remain living independently in the community and avoid the need for more congregate and costly care. The PCA program is one of the lowest reimbursed Medical Assistance services, resulting in low wages and benefits for the staff who provide these critical hands-on support services. While the legislature's investments in the PCA program during 2021 are appreciated, more needs to be done to stabilize this extremely fragile service.

## Reducing Administrative Barriers Further Exacerbating the Current Workforce Shortage: HF 3730 Rep. Bierman/SF 3464 Sen. Utke

In an effort to help address the current crisis level shortage of workers, we need to reduce administrative barriers that get in the way of individuals stepping up to do this important work. This legislation proposes to reduce the current on-average 30-day period that individuals must wait to receive their Unique Member Provider Identification (UMPI) number, a step that is required prior to their employer being able to bill for the services they provide.

## Increasing the Sustainability of Minnesota's Home Care Infrastructure by Raising Reimbursement Rates: HF 3840 Rep. Edelson/ SF 3507 Sen. Hoffman

Low funding levels for home care services are jeopardizing the sustainability of Minnesota's infrastructure of these services. While the important steps taken by the legislature in 2021 to raise the base rate for home care services are very appreciated, there still remains a significant gap between Medical Assistance and Medicare reimbursement for critical home care services. This legislative proposal strives to ensure there is access to needed services in the most cost-efficient home setting, saving the state dollars in the long-run.