



Act Now to Ensure that a Personal Care Rate Increase is Included in the Budget!

Governor Walker's proposed 2017-19 state budget increases the Medicaid personal care rate to \$16.40 on July 1, 2017 and to \$16.73 on July 1, 2018.

It is critical that we let state legislators know that Governor Walker's proposed increase is an important first step but **a 15% increase is needed to end the direct care workforce crisis and make personal care agencies whole!**

Contact your state senator and state representative today and ask them to increase the personal care rate by 15%.

Here are some things you can say:

- The Medicaid personal care rate has only increased by \$0.24 over the past 14 years, and there have been no rate increases since 2008.
- The current Medicaid personal care reimbursement rate of \$16.08 per hour is \$2.50 below the actual cost of providing care. A 15% increase is needed to make agencies whole.
- Close to 60 personal care agencies have closed or downsized in the past few years. If something is not done now, agencies will continue to close and the crisis will only get worse.
- Personal care workers make it possible for people with disabilities and older adults to live in the community. If the crisis continues, it will become harder for people to live in the community and they may have to relocate to nursing homes or institutions, which cost taxpayers more.

How to Contact Your Legislators:

The first step in contacting your legislator is knowing who your legislator is. The easiest way to do this is the tool found on the Legislature's home page, at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov>. In the right-hand side of that page is a link that says Find My Legislators! Type your address in the box below that link to get the names of your state representative and senator.

- **Phone.** You may leave a message for your legislator's Capitol office or indicate your position on legislation through the toll free Legislative Hotline, at [1-800-362-9472](tel:1-800-362-9472).
- **E-mail.** The e-mail addresses of members of the Wisconsin Legislature all have the same format. For members of the Assembly, the form is Rep.Jones@legis.wisconsin.gov; for members of the Senate, the form is Sen.Adams@legis.wisconsin.gov.