



Lee-Ann Quinn RN

Bayada Home Health Care

171 Service Ave Suite 101

Warwick, RI 02886

April 29, 2025

Hon. Marvin Abney, Chairperson

Committee on Finance

Rhode Island House of Representatives

82 Smith St

Providence, RI 02903

**RE: *include House Bill 5774 in the 2026 budget*.**

Dear Chairperson Abney and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to inform you of a critical issue that impacts your homebound constituents' dependence on homecare services. My late son Zachary and I have testified in person before you and this committee regarding similar topics. I wish I could be there today to testify to this issue. Zachary passed home on December 24, 2021 at the age of twenty-two. My late son was a fierce advocate for homecare, its funding, and its benefits to people with disabilities and our aging population to receive care in their homes. My family and I could only keep Zachary at home with the support of the home care services he received. These services supported his independence and provided medical and personal care so he could have a fulfilling and active life with as much independence as possible; this is true for every client we care for.

I ask you to include House Bill 5774, sponsored by Representative Patricia Serpa, in the SFY 26 budget. This bill is essential to stabilize Rhode Island's Medicaid home care system by ensuring the reimbursement rates remain fair and maintaining critical workforce training. I speak to you now as a constituent, a nurse in homecare for the last 12 years, a family member who relied on homecare, and as the Director of Bayada Home Health Care. I have experienced firsthand the value of home care providers in delivering cost-effective care to our state's most vulnerable populations. We have made a significant investment in home care recently, and we must continue to protect that investment by holding Medicaid Managed Care organizations (MCOs) accountable to the same rates as set forth by the General Assembly. We cannot allow MCOs to reimburse providers at rates lower than the fee-for-

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service rates that the State has implemented. Changes that do not maintain the same level will cause an increase in providers' ability to staff our most vulnerable and complex cases, like Zack! It will hurt our ability to retain our workforce, where providers struggle to compete for staff or encourage staff to enter this field.

I am concerned about my staff, who work daily to provide the personal care, bathing, dressing, meal preparation, and companionship that our friends, neighbors, and children rely on daily. My family and I can tell you firsthand how difficult that wait can be.

Over the last 12 years, home care has changed as more and more Rhode Islanders choose to receive care at home, and the needs of those clients have changed and grown more complex. RI has also invested in the education and training of our certified nursing assistants by providing behavioral health training to help meet the complex needs of the Rhode Islanders we serve. Without the inclusion of House Bill 5774, the training and the rate enhancement that was provided will result in a \$1.56 per hour wage cut for over 600 CNAs and homemakers who completed the training and are providing care. A wage cut at this time will jeopardize the financial stability of those aides and their families while also causing problems with workforce retention.

I urge you to please include the language in HOUSE Bill 5774 in the FY26 budget. These provisions will establish a Medicaid Home Care Rate Floor, which prevents rate cuts that threaten the stability of home care services and workers' wages; continues the Behavioral Health Training Program & Rate Enhancement, which protects a \$1.56 per hour wage increase already in place for home care's lowest-paid workers, ensuring they can continue providing essential care; and strengthening the home care workforce, which helps retain direct care staff and prevents workforce shortages that could disrupt care for Medicaid beneficiaries, which will allow Rhode Islanders to receive the care they need.

Thank you for supporting home care and our caregivers who provide services efficiently and cost-effectively. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at 401-474-9829 or [lquinn@bayada.com](mailto:lquinn@bayada.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Lee-Ann Quinn RN". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "RN" clearly visible at the end.

Lee-Ann Quinn RN

Director, Bayada Home Health Care

and Mother to Zachary Quinn