

Good Shepherd Home Care
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Leony Suero

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Apr 29, 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chairman

Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State of Rhode Island
82 Smith Street, Room 35
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

My name is Leony Suero, and I serve as the Administrative Assistant at Good Shepherd Home Care. While I'm not on the frontlines, I support every part of the care process — from helping CNAs and homemakers get set up during intake, to ensuring they're paid correctly, to receiving their feedback and tracking their schedules. I'm the one they come to when something isn't working. I hear the stress, the effort, and the pride they carry into this work.

Our caregivers don't ask for much. But they give everything. They go from home to home, client to client — often with no fanfare — because they believe in what they do. I've seen CNAs call in from their cars between shifts to make sure their patients are okay. I've seen homemakers go above and beyond to provide not just physical care, but comfort. What they do is essential. And too often, it's treated as expendable.

That's why I'm writing to ask you to support **House Bill 5774** and **Senate Bill 255** in the FY2026 budget.

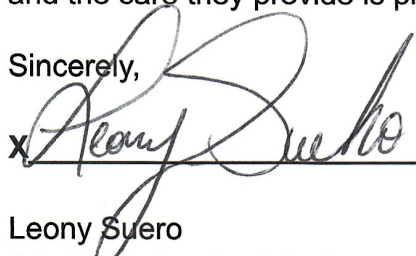
These bills aren't about business. They're about basic fairness. The **Medicaid rate floor** would ensure agencies like ours aren't undermined by managed care organizations who want to pay less for more. That directly impacts the wages, hours, and security of the people I support every day.

The **\$1.56/hour behavioral health wage enhancement** has made a real difference in the lives of caregivers I speak with. They feel more confident. They feel recognized. It has also helped us expand services to clients with more complex needs — people who need caregivers with that extra level of skill and empathy.

Removing that enhancement wouldn't just shrink paychecks — it would send a message that their growth, training, and sacrifice don't matter.

As someone who supports this team every day, I ask that you include House Bill 5774 and Senate Bill 255 in the FY2026 budget. These workers have earned every penny, and the care they provide is priceless.

Sincerely,

x  _____

Leony Suero
Administrative Assistant
Good Shepherd Home Care