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The Partnership for Medicaid Home-Based Care Applauds President Biden’s Plan to Expand Access to Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services

WASHINGTON, DC – The Partnership for Medicaid Home-Based Care (PMHC) is pleased to see President Biden’s plan to prioritize substantial investment in Medicaid home and community-based Services (HCBS) and the essential home care workforce that faces ongoing and urgent challenges due to underfunded reimbursement rates resulting in low wages, high turnover and significant vacancy rates.

“PMHC stands ready to assist the Biden Administration and Congress in further refining the HCBS policy proposal in the coming months to expand access to Medicaid home-based care and services and increase the wages of the home care workforce that America relies on to be cared for safely at home,” said David Totaro, PMHC Chairman.

“The home care workforce has been undervalued and under-appreciated for far too long. PMHC is encouraged by the Biden Administration’s recognition of the value of the home care workforce and the proposed efforts to improve access to, and the quality of, home and community-based home care services,” said David J. Totaro. “It is more important than ever to invest and expand our country’s capacity for home and community-based services as our aging population is growing exponentially and the strong outcomes of these home-based services have become ever more evident during the pandemic.”

Increasing federal and state investments in this workforce will provide the foundation for a system that can provide quality and sustainable long-term services and supports for seniors and people with disabilities across the country. The ability to drive consumer-preferred, cost-efficient, high quality outcomes across all long-term care services is predicated on the stability and availability of a dedicated and appropriately compensated workforce.

Home care stakeholders have been fighting for decades for additional investments in HCBS at the state level, including efforts to simply obtain funding to meet state and local minimum wage mandates. Despite all this effort, the result in most states is perpetually obtaining the bare minimum of funding that undervalues the outcomes achieved by HCBS services and the home care workforce.

There is significant variation among states with regard to the balance of options and funding for HCBS versus institutional long-term care. States with lower investment in HCBS long-term care are most likely to be states that will also not invest in the workforce through higher reimbursement rates to achieve needed workforce investment or to fund increases in minimum wage mandates, significantly reducing access to HCBS long-term care options.

The members of PMHC represent home care agencies, state home care associations, managed care organizations and other payers, and business affiliates who have come together to improve the quality and integrity of Medicaid funded home and community-based services (HCBS). Recognizing the integral role of HCBS, PMHC is dedicated to advancing and supporting public policies that strengthen the Medicaid program.

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