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# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **New Poll: PA Voters Voice Overwhelming Support for More Uniform Training, Education, Background Check Standards for Health Workers**

### ***PHCA Urges Public Support for Increased Uniformity in Long Term Care Workforce Standards***

Nine of Ten PA Voters Say Home Health Workers Should Have Same Training, Education, Background Check Standards as Workers in Nursing Homes

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) today said a new statewide poll demonstrates overwhelming public support for ensuring home health care workers in the Commonwealth receive the same rigorous training, education and background check standards now required by law for nursing home employees.

A new poll of 650 likely Pennsylvania voters conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research, commissioned by Triad Strategies LLC, finds *89% say the state should require the same training and education requirements for home care workers as it does for nursing home employees.*

Similarly, *94% support legislation ensuring home health workers undergo the same criminal background check now applied to nursing home employees.* The poll's error margin is +/- 3.8%.

"Consumers clearly demand and deserve a more uniform, level playing field when it comes to ensuring the caregivers they depend upon are trained, educated and checked in a manner that maximizes care quality and safety," stated Alan G. Rosenbloom, President and CEO of PHCA. "A key public policy objective in the Commonwealth must be to establish a more integrated long term care continuum -- from home and community-based care to assisted living to nursing facilities."

Rosenbloom also said a home health care licensure bill now pending in the General Assembly requires modification. In its current form, HB 518 -- which licenses home care companies -- fails to create a more level regulatory playing field because it exempts Medicaid home and community based services (HCBS) from regulatory oversight.

"We support the Administration's intent to 'rebalance' the long term care system in Pennsylvania by expanding HCBS, and we will continue to support its appropriate expansion as a complement to facility-based care," said the PHCA President and CEO. "But we strongly oppose -- and so does the public -- exempting these caregivers and providers from the licensing oversight we now have with nursing homes and their employees."

*PHCA is a statewide membership services organization representing more than 325 long-term care and senior service providers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information about PHCA is available by calling 717-221-1800 or visiting [www.phca.org](http://www.phca.org).*

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