



NEWS

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**PHCA Praises Governor Rendell, General Assembly
For Putting Nursing Home Rate Increase into Effect**
*Action Credited With Ensuring Pennsylvania's Most Vulnerable Seniors,
Persons with Disabilities Retain Ready Access to Quality Nursing Home Care*

Harrisburg, PA – Applauding Governor Ed Rendell's announcement yesterday that he has authorized emergency advances out of the Commonwealth's budget reserves in order to provide Medicaid rate increases to Pennsylvania nursing homes, the President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) praised the Governor and the General Assembly for their joint leadership in protecting the interests and well-being of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable population of seniors and persons with disabilities.

"The timely, decisive action taken by Governor Rendell with the strong support of the General Assembly has averted a possible catastrophe for Pennsylvania nursing homes and their residents," stated Alan G. Rosenbloom, President and CEO of PHCA. "We are especially appreciative of the efforts of legislative leaders and other lawmakers from across the Commonwealth who have listened closely to their elderly constituents, and have translated legitimate pleas for help into substantive action in Harrisburg."

As noted in the statement issued by the Governor, Rosenbloom praised the fact the Administration is continuing to pursue the release of federal funds owed the Commonwealth for the purpose of funding seniors' essential Medical Assistance programs.

"PHCA will continue to work cooperatively with all of our state and federal officials who are working extremely hard to ensure the funds we are owed from Washington are disbursed as soon as possible," continued Rosenbloom. "We again applaud our elected officials for their action, and ensuring seniors across the Commonwealth maintain their access to quality long term care services and benefits."

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.

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