



PRESS RELEASE
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**Home Care Association of America Urges New York State Legislators to Remember Home Care’s
“Forgotten Middle”**

Calls for state to pass home care tax credit to offset the rising cost of home care

October 10, 2022 (ALBANY, NY) – For thousands of seniors and their families who pay for home care personally, the recent increase in wages for New York home care aides may make receiving services unsustainable.

While the Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) supports the pay increase for home care professionals, it also urges New York legislators to provide a home care tax credit to help seniors caught in the “Forgotten Middle”—those who do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare services and must rely on the pooled resources of multiple family members to obtain long-term home care services. These seniors and their families will suffer from increased costs as the pay raise is passed down from home care agencies to the consumer.

“Home care professionals provide valuable services to thousands of New Yorkers every day. We believe these valuable professionals deserve to receive living, sustainable wages, as HCAOA shared in our policy priorities in [The State of Home Care report](#),” said Vicki Hoak, HCAOA CEO. “However, we cannot forget that there are thousands of New Yorkers who do not qualify for long-term care through Medicaid or Medicare. These families are in desperate need of care for their aging loved ones, but the increased fees may soon force them to give up the services these seniors need and deserve.”

Effective October 1, home care aid workers began to receive a sorely needed \$2 per hour increase in their wages. An additional \$1 per hour will be added again in October 2023. The increases were included in the budget passed earlier this year. The state is currently working to ensure sufficient Medicaid reimbursement flows to Medicaid home care aides, but there is no reimbursement strategy for families who do not qualify for Medicaid. Medicare does not pay for long-term care.

CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies assessed the impact of the home care wage increases and found, “...wage increases are also unsustainable for many of the private households who pay for home care directly. In the absence of any state or federal long-term care insurance program, home care often imposes tremendous costs—an average of nearly \$60,000 annually in New York State.”¹

A home care tax credit could make a significant difference to New York seniors in the “Forgotten Middle.” Like the recent tax credit awarded to farmers to balance the cost of additional overtime for employees², a similar tax credit to offset the home care aid wage increase would allow agencies to keep the cost of home care affordable.

HCAOA calls on New York legislators to help New York seniors age with dignity at home through a home care tax credit to offset the needed pay increase for home care aides.

^[1] *“The Case for Public Investment in Higher Pay for New York State Home Care Workers: Estimated Costs and Savings”*; Isaac Jabola-Carolus, Stephanie Luce, Ruth Milkman; The Graduate Center, City University of New York and School of Labor and Urban Studies, City University of New York March 2021

² “Senator Rachel May helps secure investment in NY agriculture & food systems,” Office of Senator Rachel May, April 14, 2022

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ABOUT HCAOA

Founded in 2002, the Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) is the unified voice of the home care industry, strengthening our members through advocacy, education, and research. We represent more than 4,100 agencies that employ more than 1 million caregivers across the United States.