

# 1199SEIU

United Healthcare Workers East  
Massachusetts Division

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Dear Governor Healey,

We are writing from 1199SEIU on behalf of the nearly 60,000 Personal Care Attendants in Massachusetts, and from Independent Living Centers and disability organizations on behalf of consumer employers and providers who ensure PCA program access to over 40,000 people with disabilities and elders across our Commonwealth.

The Personal Care Attendant program is a national model of consumer directed care but there is a crisis facing people with disabilities and elders who use this program to live independent, dignified lives at home outside of institutional settings. The critical shortage of Personal Care Attendants is becoming more acute, leaving people with disabilities and elders without necessary supports that have resulted in serious loss of basic activities of daily living and many people with disabilities and elders with compromised health and safety.

**In order to address this staffing crisis, we must immediately invest in this predominantly single, head of household, women of color, healthcare workforce. This includes:**

- **Higher wages leading to \$25/hour**
- **Improved benefits including retirement security**
- **Job training for career advancement and health and safety protections**

Additionally, we must invest in this consumer-directed program by increasing rates for Personal Care Management agencies to ensure people with disabilities and elders have access to this important program.

We are united in these demands and in support of the upcoming collective bargaining process between 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and the PCA Quality Homecare Workforce Council.

We look forward to working with you to advance racial equity and a well-trained and fairly compensated PCA workforce to ensure access to quality care at home for Massachusetts people with disabilities and elders.

Signed,

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Boston Center for Independent Living, Disability Policy Consortium, Ad Lib, Stavros, Independence Associates, Southeast Center for Independent Living, Northeast Independent Living Program, Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled, Center for Living and Working, Disability Resource Center, Metrowest Center for Independent Living, Tri-Valley Elder Services, Ethos, Mystic Valley Elder Services, Greater Lynn Senior Services, Mass Senior Action Council, New England Jewish Labor Committee, Matahari, Our Bodies Ourselves, Dignity Alliance

\*Appointed