

Senate Bill 457 - Support Seniors, People with Disabilities, and Care Professionals

Home care workers help seniors and people with disabilities with activities of daily living through Indiana's Division of Aging programs, allowing them to live independently in their homes instead of nursing homes.

FACT: The median wage for home health and personal care aides in Indiana is \$11.57 per hour.ⁱ

FACT: The rising need for care workers will continue to gain momentum. Indiana is projected to have an additional 72,600 job openings for home health and personal care aides by 2028 – due to both a rise in demand for these services and workers leaving the direct care industry.ⁱⁱ

CRISIS: Home care workers have children and families to support, but a salary that does not allow them to do so. Without competitive wages, many will look elsewhere to industries such as retail for work. With Indiana's senior population on the rise, providers will be unable to fulfill demand, leaving seniors and members of the disabled community with little recourse.

SOLUTION: To prevent a shortage of workers and protect the needs of seniors and people with disabilities, reimbursement rates for home care services can be increased. Attendant care and homemaker jobs can offer improved wages and benefits sufficient to recruit and retain the needed workers.

- Rates for these services have not been increased in recent years.
- Including a pass-through clause ensures 95% of the funds go to worker wages and benefits, with the remaining portion for providers' administrative costs.
- Implementation would need to be in or coordinated with the state budget.

What this means:

- Increased support for those working in home care as a profession and family caregivers who care for a loved one or a family member with support from the state.
- Additional workers to prevent forecasted shortages and lapses in service.
- Ensuring thousands of seniors and members of the disabled community receive adequate in-home care.

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ⁱ From the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics Query System, accessible at data.bls.gov/oes.

ⁱⁱ From PHI Workforce Data Center. <https://phinational.org/policy-research/workforce-data-center>