June 2, 2014

Senator Stephen M. Brewer
Chairman, Senate Ways & Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Brewer:

As the conference committee continues the work on the state’s fiscal year 2015 budget, the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts is seeking your support for budget language that would improve access to community-based care while achieving cost savings for the Commonwealth.

On behalf of 200 home health care providers across the state, their patients and employees, we urge that the conference committee include the following amendments, language, and funding support in the legislature’s joint budget proposal.

- **Senate Amendment #929: Home Telehealth**
  - This language was passed in the FY14 budget and allows MassHealth the policy support necessary to continue work on establishing rates and guidelines for home telehealth services.
  - Home Telehealth involves remote vital signs monitoring equipment. This service offers immediate cost savings by reducing the frequency of home health visits paid for by MassHealth, along with reduced hospitalizations through improved medication adherence, patient self-management and timely follow-up care.

- **Senate Amendment #683: Homemaker Wage Increase**
  - Approved by a unanimous roll call vote in the Senate, this amendment increases pay by approximately $.75 cents per hour for homemakers and personal care homemakers serving clients enrolled in the Executive Office of Elder Affairs Home Care Program.

- **Senate Outside Section Relative to the Home and Community-Based Services Policy Lab**
  - This language and corresponding funding would support the study of the cost-effectiveness of state-funded home and community-based services.

- **House Support for Elder Services Home Care Purchased Services (9110-1630)**

We are grateful for your consideration of these matters. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kelleher
Executive Director

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