June 30, 2015

The Honorable James T. Welch
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
State House
Room 309
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jeffrey Sánchez
House Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
State House
Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Welch and Representative Sánchez,

The Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) supports H.998 – An Act Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Home Health Services.

CHAP is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body for home and community-based health care organizations. Created in 1965 as a joint venture between the American Public Health Association and the National League for Nursing, CHAP was the first accrediting body for home and community-based health care organizations in the United States. We accredit over 9,000 home and community-based health care organizations that make high-quality care a programmatic and business priority. Through “deeming authority” granted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), CHAP has the regulatory authority to survey agencies providing home health, hospice and home medical equipment services, to determine if they meet the Medicare Conditions of Participation and CMS Quality Standards.

H.998 directly addresses the rapid growth in the number of certified home health agencies in Massachusetts and the lack of rigorous standards or a licensing requirement for such agencies. CHAP strongly believes that when the business of care gets better, the care of people gets better. By creating a commission to study and advance the standards of certified home health care and its costs, the legislature will take the necessary steps to ensure the citizens of the Commonwealth receive the highest quality home health care possible.

CHAP looks forward to working with the legislature and the proposed commission to help inform the development of recommendations regarding licensure or other oversight of certified home health agencies. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact CHAP’s Senior Manager, Communications & Industry Affairs, Nathan Constable at 202-467-1716 or nconstable@chapinc.org.

Thank you for your efforts to call attention to this important issue.
Sincerely,

Karen Collishaw, CAE
President & CEO