October 22, 2015

Senator Patricia D. Jehlen, Senate Chair  
Joint Committee on Elder Affairs  
State House, Room 424  
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Denise C. Garlick, House Chair  
Joint Committee on Elder Affairs  
State House, Room 167  
Boston, MA 02133

RE: H.2081/S.1153, An Act establishing the caregiver advise, record and enable (CARE) act

Dear Chairwoman Jehlen & Chairwoman Garlick:

The Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts wishes to go on record as supporting H.2081/S.1153, An Act establishing the caregiver advise, record and enable (CARE) act. On behalf of nearly 200 home health care and private pay home care agencies, we believe strengthening and educating caregivers will serve to advance the mission of our members to help people remain health at home.

The Home Care Alliance appreciates that the legislation deals with providing family or informal caregivers with the resources to help their loved ones manage their health condition. This is a win-win for families, patients and community resources. Supporting caregivers will improve our own quality metrics as agencies and families work together to halt or delay costlier facility-based care.

Additionally, the legislation mandates that a hospital discharge plan include, “Contact information for any health care, community resources, and long-term services and supports necessary to successfully carry out the patient’s discharge plan.”

We believe this speaks to the services our member home care and home health agencies provide. Families often do not understand the community resources available to them. We at the Home Care Alliance will continue to work with AARP and other proponents of this legislation to ensure people are aware that home care is an option and that they are not alone in managing their loved one’s care. We will also work with proponents on resources to make caregivers and hospitals aware that home care agencies can verify that the instruction at the hospital is being properly followed at home post-discharge.

Thank you for considering our comments and please contact me at 617-482-8830 or jfuccione@thinkhomecare.org with any questions.

Thank you,

James Fuccione  
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Home Care Alliance of MA

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