Representative Brian S. Dempsey  
Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means  
State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133  

Dear Chairman Dempsey:

As the fiscal year 2017 conference committee continues the work on the state’s budget, the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts is seeking your support for critically important language approved in the Senate that would protect consumers and patients receiving in-home care.

We strongly encourage the inclusion of Outside Section 74 from the Senate Ways & Means budget, and as amended in the final Senate budget, in the conference committee’s final proposed fiscal plan on behalf of the legislature. This policy establishes a special commission that will study, discuss, and make recommendations on state oversight methods for medical home health agencies and privately-paid supportive home care services.

Massachusetts is one of only five states with no state-based oversight of home health care services. While some states may have a certificate of need process (CON), licensure, or even both, the Commonwealth has neither. Based on the rapid growth in the number of home health agencies, and nothing preventing this steep increase, a set of standards must be established to ensure appropriate services are being provided and patients are being protected.

Likewise, private-pay home care agencies across the state that provide mostly non-medical support services in the home have no state oversight. The study commission is needed to also determine the best solution for these types of companies. Massachusetts sits with roughly half of the country that offers no state-based solution for ensuring private-pay home care companies adhere to any guidelines.

On behalf of 200 home health care providers across the state, their patients and employees, we urge that the conference committee include the Home Care Commission language from Senate Ways & Means’ Outside Section 74, as amended by the full Senate, in the legislature’s joint budget proposal.

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,

[Signature]

Patricia Kelleher  
Executive Director

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