Why Should I Advocate?

Our elected officials make laws and policies every year which can affect home care. They have varying levels of understanding our industry, and they depend on us to help them learn more.

You wear two hats when it comes to home care advocacy:

- You are a provider, serving people in each Senator or Representative’s district.
- And you are also a constituent yourself.

As such, you are the ideal person to convey to lawmakers the importance of home care. You have the power to educate them about the impact of home care on their community, and to engage them on important issues.

Without your help, lawmakers may not realize the ability of home care to support jobs, to lower health care costs, and to improve lives of those in their district. At MHCA, we want to make it easy for you to take action.

How can I make a difference?

1. Attend our Home Care Day at the Capital the morning of Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Whether you attend in-person or via zoom, please register here.

2. If you don’t already know who represents you, find their names and contact information here, on the legislative Who Represents Me? page.

3. Arrange a connection (email, phone call, or meeting) with your Senator and/or Representative. Be sure to say in your voice mail or in the subject line of your email that you are a constituent. Some officials are so busy they are unable to respond to non-constituents. In some districts, both elected officials are happy to do a combined meeting – ask if that’s possible! Note: MHCA will connect members from the same districts so that you can coordinate a joint meeting, if you would like.
4. If you want help with emailing, visit our online Advocacy Center to send a customizable email about current legislative issues. Simply select an issue, add in your own story, and enter your contact information to send your representatives an email.

5. Need help preparing for the meeting?
   a. We have sample scripts and talking points on the MHCA website.
   b. Remember to address your legislator with the correct title (Senator or Representative) unless they ask you to do otherwise.
   c. Do your research to find out if they are on any health care-related committees. You may have to do some teaching about home care! Avoid industry jargon, though.
   d. Be flexible – they are very busy and sometimes meetings run late! And if you are delayed, let their office know.
   e. If you are asked questions & you aren’t sure how to answer, write them down and promise to get back to them. Then reach out to MHCA for guidance.

6. After your connection (of any type), please do two easy tasks:
   a. Send a thank you note! Review highlights and remind them they can reach out to you with questions.
   b. Fill out the MHCA online ‘Completed a Meeting?’ form (scroll to the bottom of the page) to tell MHCA how your conversation went! It’s quick and easy, and so very important in helping MHCA keep track of who has been contacted and plan our next steps.

7. Follow MHCA on Facebook – make sure to like and share our advocacy posts!

Remember – Elected Senators and Representatives are your community neighbors, serving you! They depend on and encourage their constituents to educate them on important issues. Don’t be intimidated!

Mission: MHCA represents and supports Minnesota home care providers committed to high quality home care services.
Vision: MHCA will shape the home care landscape to improve and sustain quality care services.
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