

2025 Provider Advocacy Outreach Guide

"Our mission requires us to be the voice for those who have home health care needs. We work diligently to represent home care clients, their families and caregivers, so they can focus on their health care goals.

Together our voice is stronger. Let's keep educating decision makers."

Darla Thompson, Aveanna Home Health

Why Should I Advocate?

Our elected officials make laws and policies every year which can affect home care. They have varying levels of understanding of 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 the 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 Day at the Capital and Advocacy Week the week of February 17, 2025.
- 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 (virtual or in-person 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 when setting up the meeting. 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 pull together members from the same districts to schedule a joint meeting. Your registration allows us to collect that information!

- 4. 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 that you aren't sure how to answer, write them down and promise toget back to them. Then reach out to MHCA for guidance.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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!