

Advocating for Home Care: Clients, Patients, and Family Members

Minnesota State Senators and Representatives make decisions each year that affect home care services. To help them make the best decisions possible, they need to hear from the people who depend on and appreciate receiving care in their own homes, for themselves or for a member of their family. Each year, MHCA coordinates a special time during the legislative session where we all reach out to our elected officials to let them know what we are concerned about and to urge them to support our requests.

“You can make profound differences on big issues with your voice as a citizen.”

Sam Daley-Harris

Please join us in the 2025 Home Care Advocacy Week efforts!

I’m in! What do I need to do? This year we are asking you to email, call, or arrange for a meeting (in-person or virtual) with your senator and representative.

1. If you are not sure who your legislators are, you can [find out online](#).
2. Decide if you are going to email, call, or meet with your legislators (or all three!) Legislators are very open to virtual meetings (such as Zoom) if you cannot meet in person. Information about how to set up a virtual meeting is available on the [MHCA website](#).
3. Plan your message. Your home care providers are talking with legislators about laws and policies
What you offer – that no one else can – is your own stories. Tell them how home care has made a difference in your lives and why you want them to support home care in Minnesota. There is no more powerful message for your senator and representative to hear than yours.
4. Prepare for your conversation.
 - a. Consider joining our Day at the Capital and Advocacy Week event the week of February 17. There is a virtual kickoff Monday the 17 and a hearing at the Capitol Tuesday. During the event you will hear from MHCA staff, and our legislative lobbyists talk about important issues and how to shape your messages. [Register online](#).
 - b. Let them know immediately that you are a constituent! This is very important as some legislators are so busy, they don’t accept requests for people who do not live in their district.
 - c. Be sure you use the correct title (e.g. Senator Smith or Representative Jones).

Mission: MHCA serves home care providers through advocacy, education, resources, and collaborations.

Vision: MHCA will shape the home care landscape to improve and sustain quality care services.

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- d. Be ready to explain what home care is in case this is something new for your legislator to learn about.
 - e. Sample scripts and materials are available on the [MHCA website](#).
 - f. If you are asked any questions you can't answer, write them down, and tell your senator or representative you will get back to them with the information. Then, ask your home care provider to help you, or contact us at MHCA. It's great when legislators ask questions – it shows they are interested and want to learn more!
 - g. Be flexible if you have scheduled meeting – it's common for legislators to be busy, and they may have another meeting that runs late.
5. After your conversation, please do two important things:
- a. Send a thank you note, highlighting the important parts of your meeting.
 - b. Visit the [MHCA Grassroots website page](#) to complete a quick online form (scroll to the bottom of the page) letting us know who you talked with and how it went. This is incredibly helpful for MHCA to learn which senators and representatives have been contacted, which helps us plan for future activity! *Note: in the field marked "Organization" please write the name of your home care agency and "Client"*

Remember – Minnesota Senators and Representatives are people from your area who are committed to the success of our state. They have been elected to represent you and what is important to you! Don't be intimidated!