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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Home Care Alliance Statement on Ballot Question Legislation**

Boston, MA - The Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts, representing nearly 200 home care and home health agencies across the state issued the following statement on the 'Grand Bargain' ballot measure legislation which passed the House and Senate today:

"The Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts and its members have long supported higher wages for home care workers through legislative proposals, career ladder initiatives, and training programs.

"Today marks a very important phase in the conversation around the long-term care of older adults and people with disabilities in our Commonwealth. For both those that pay privately for these services or receive care through public programs, home care workers are the backbone of the state's home care system.

"However, the state has not increased MassHealth reimbursement rates for these services since 2008, making it increasingly difficult for employers to increase wages and retain this workforce. Likewise, the state elder services home care program has experienced wait lists in certain areas as reimbursement has not kept up with inflation.

"While this legislation is an exciting victory for Massachusetts workers who will see their wages go up, we urge Governor Baker and his administration to ensure that state reimbursement rates for home care services are proportionately adjusted to keep pace with minimum wage increases over the next five years.

### About the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts:

With a mission to unite people and organizations to advance community health through care and services in the home, the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts is a non-profit trade association and advocacy group providing representation, education, communication, advocacy and – ultimately – a voice for the state's home health industry. Founded in 1969, the Alliance has grown to represent more than 180 home care and home health agencies across the state. For more information, visit [www.thinkhomecare.org](http://www.thinkhomecare.org).

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