**WiAHC Action Alert:** *Sample E-mail to Legislators*

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

As your constituent and a member of the Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care (WiAHC), I am writing today to introduce myself and offer to be a resource for you and your office on the home health care industry in Wisconsin.

Home health care can mean different things to different medical professionals, caregivers, and patients depending on their profession and their current need for care. It can also mean different things to lawmakers, which can create confusion and challenges during the policymaking process. With that in mind, I am happy to provide you with insight into the role home health care plays in the Wisconsin health care system.

Skilled home health care offers a wide array of services to treat patient illness or injury, including surgical wound care, monitoring chronic illness, and administrating intravenous therapy – all of which must be initiated by a physician’s order. But what truly makes home health care unique is that these services are provided by skilled non-physician practitioners, such as nurses and physical therapists, in a patient’s home.

Based on my experience, patients would much rather receive care in the comfort of their own homes, where they tend to recover more quickly, have better outcomes, and enjoy an improved quality of life. Home health care also offers patients greater convenience and is typically less expensive then care they would receive in an institutional setting. It the long run, it reduces costs for patients, private payers, and public payers, such as the Wisconsin Medicaid program.

Unfortunately, despite the many benefits of home health care, the Wisconsin Medicaid reimbursement rate for home health care skilled nursing has not been increased in over a decade. This makes it difficult to operate home health care agencies and threatens our viability due to the significant workforce retention and patient access challenges it creates.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my e-mail and to learn more about the home health care industry. I look forward to potentially being a resource for your office moving forward. When presented the opportunity, I would also ask you to support policies and programs that enhance home health care in Wisconsin.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Name

Home Address

Phone # *(optional)*