

# SEIU Healthcare MN 2018 Legislative Agenda:

## Restore contract funding to PCAs and Family Caregivers

In January 2017, SEIU Healthcare MN Homecare workers reached a tentative agreement with Governor Dayton, DHS and MMB for \$96 million in State and Federal funds to increase the PCA reimbursement rate and budgets in CSG and CDCS by 3.09%. This increase was to go toward a \$2/hour increase of the wage floor, stronger PTO accrual, a set of holidays paid at time-and-a-half, training development and stipends, a 10% pay increase for complex care clients receiving 12+ hours/day, and the launch of the new PCA-Client matching platform, DirectSupportConnect.org.

This agreement was included in the Governor's budget, and the bills to ratify and fund the contract (SF2066, SF2067, HF2399, HF2286) were authored by 8 DFL and 13 GOP legislators. However, because of the work of certain groups targeting Medicaid programs in Minnesota, that tentative agreement was slashed by 50% to \$48 million, which allowed for only a 1.642% rate and budget increase.

Our goal this session is to restore the funding of our original Tentative Agreement with the administration and achieve additional wage increases and other benefits to address the care crisis through roughly an *additional 1.64% rate and budget increase*. This would be treated as a new contract and specific use of the rate increase would be renegotiated by the administration, DHS, MMB, Union members and homecare clients.

Nearly everyone involved in HBCS agrees that we are facing a statewide care crisis, with upwards of 6,000 unfilled homecare positions. DHS has held stakeholder forums asking for ideas on how to address this crisis in four ways: Increase wages and benefits, develop comprehensive training, increase the worker pool, and enhance job satisfaction. Our proposal directly addresses all four of these issues, and was developed, negotiated and ratified by our Union members – **thousands of PCAs and family caregivers across Minnesota**.



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