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WHCA/WiCAL THANKS ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ON AGENCY REQUEST WI Department of Health Services Budget Includes Critical Priorities for LTC Providers

**MADISON** — John Vander Meer, President & CEO of the Wisconsin Health Care Association and the Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WHCA/WiCAL), today issued the following statement regarding the Wisconsin Department of Health Services agency budget submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Administration:

"The agency budget by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services released this week includes essential resources for the state's long-term care (LTC) provider community, including adding the Family Care Direct Care Workforce Funding (which was passed as a part of the last budget) to the Medicaid base re-estimate, as well as funding the acuity of the state's skilled nursing facilities.

According to DHS officials, continuation of this particular funding will translate into \$30.75 million in all funds in each year of the biennium for Family Care, and \$17.5 million all funds in acuity funding for skilled nursing providers. On behalf of WHCA/WiCAL members around the state, I would like to thank Administration leaders for this important step toward providing assistance to our state's skilled nursing and assisted living centers.

Our state's provider community faces an unprecedented workforce crisis, significant funding challenges, and a rapidly aging population. WHCA/WiCAL looks forward to working with all state leaders to ensure that providers receive adequate reimbursement to continue delivering high-quality care and services to our state's frail elderly and disabled citizens."

## **MORE INFORMATION:**

The 2018 Workforce Crisis Report

## **About WHCA/WiCAL:**

The Wisconsin Health Care Association (WHCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing, protecting and advancing the interests of Wisconsin's long-term and post-acute care provider community and the residents they serve. The Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WiCAL) is a division of WHCA that advocates for assisted living facilities by helping our members provide the highest quality services to the Badger State's frail and elderly citizens. Together, WHCA/WiCAL is the most representative long-term care association in Wisconsin.

Learn more at www.whcawical.org.