FEATURE ARTICLE

Bipartisan Lawmakers in U.S. House Introduce Choose Home Care Act of 2021

- Bill would expand home-based care options for Medicare beneficiaries
- Strong endorsement of legislation from home health provider and patient advocacy communities

A bipartisan group of lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives formally introduced the Choose Home Care Act of 2021 on Friday morning, legislation designed to increase access to home health care following hospitalization for eligible Medicare beneficiaries by offering a safe, high-quality post-acute option for nursing home level services in the home.

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) and Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare (PQHH) today commend the introduction of the Choose Home Care Act of 2021 in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representatives Henry Cuellar (D-TX) and James Comer (R-KY).
The Choose Home Care Act was also introduced in the U.S. Senate \( S.2562 \) in July by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Todd Young (R-IN). Go here to support the Senate version of this legislation. It literally takes you only seconds to send a powerful message to your specific elected representatives.

**READ THE REST @ PD Home Care at NAHC**

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**TOP STORIES**

### The NAHC Fall Forum is Essential Education for Home Care & Hospice

*Registration is now open* for the **NAHC Fall Forum**, a live online event featuring 30 hours of essential education for home care and hospice professionals.

Although the 2021 Home Care and Hospice Conference and Expo was cancelled, the NAHC Fall Forum, November 2-10, will offer what you have come to expect from NAHC: the best education in home care and hospice, taught by the experts you know and trust.

Over the first two weeks of November, the NAHC Fall Forum will present education focused on six topics:

- HR, Diversity & Inclusion on Nov. 2
- Finance/PDGM on Nov. 3
- Medicare Advantage on Nov. 4
- Home Health on Nov. 8
NAHC Backyard Advocacy: Home Care & Hospice
Voices, United as One

"Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into the water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects." – Dalai Lama

As Summer fades into Autumn, we invite you to help us close out this year’s annual Backyard Bash for Advocacy with our voices united in support of the home care and hospice communities.

Our representatives in Washington need to hear about the value of home-based care and services from the people who know it best – patients, families, and providers like you. NAHC is advocating on behalf of home care and hospice every day, but nothing has a greater impact than having the voices of the home care community united and amplified in sharing with Congress what needs to be done to provide the best possible care in the home for our nation’s most vulnerable patients.

We ask you to take a few moments this week to visit our Legislative Action Center and reach out to your elected officials.

Take Action Now!
Donna DeBlois Inducted into NAHC and HHFMA Hall of Fame

It is with pride, but heavy hearts that the Board of Directors of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) announce that the late Donna DeBlois, President of MaineHealth Care at Home, was inducted into the both the Home Care & Hospice Hall of Fame and the Home Care and Hospice Financial Managers Hall of Fame on October 1, 2021.

Unfortunately, Ms. DeBlois passed away that same day, at her home surrounded by family and friends.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held later this month, where hundreds of attendees are expected. Ms. DeBlois requested contributions be made to MaineHealthCare at Home Hospice Program; Maine Health Care at Home, 15 Industrial Park Rd, Saco, ME 04072.

"Donna was a very special person with a passion and dedication to health care at home that was at the center of her professional life," said NAHC President William A. Dombi. "She was always there for the home care and hospice community, including through leadership positions on the NAHC Board and committees and in similar capacities with the Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine," he added. "Moreover, she brought her friendship to everyone, along with an ever-present smile that blended so well with the high professionalism of her work."

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Nominate a Home Care Aide for a Scholarship! (And do it TODAY!)

Go here to nominate someone for a scholarship!
- Nomination period ends Friday, October 8, so please do it now!

CellTrak, the provider of the industry’s leading mobile solution empowering better outcomes for home and community care and the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), announced today they continue their joint scholarship program for home care aides that debuted in 2020.

Home care aides are the backbone of home and community-based services, providing patients with care that helps them reclaim their independence while staying comfortably in their homes. The recent coronavirus pandemic has proven that our loved ones are safer and healthier when cared for in their homes. Without caregivers bravely venturing into patients homes during the height of the pandemic, no such care could be provided.

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Help Make an Impact on the Future of Healthcare at Home

“Healthcare at home has gained tremendous momentum in the last year, but we must keep moving forward. This includes positioning ourselves to succeed under the emerging value-based models with best practice research. By determining where and what resources should be used to achieve the highest clinical, operational and financial outcomes, we
strengthen ourselves as an industry and also our ability to become a formidable partner within the healthcare continuum.”

– Brent Korte, Chief Home Care Officer, EvergreenHealth Home Care

We need your help! Take the pledge to move our industry forward by participating in the NAHC sponsored National Healthcare at Home Best Practices Study today. Click here to register.

Topics to be covered in the study include:

- What are the operational practices of Five-Star home health providers?
- Do university/college partnerships and preceptor programs have an impact on nursing recruitment and retention and how are those partnerships/programs developed?
- What impact does palliative care have in reducing hospitalization rates for home care agencies and average length of stay for hospices?
- Is there a correlation between admission nurse models and varying training/QA programs that results in improved OASIS accuracy and quality outcomes?
- What are the key episode management and visit cost strategies that result in maximized reimbursement while maintaining high quality of care?
- What bereavement services result in better hospice CAHPS scores and do scores differ by patient setting?
- And much much more

Participating agencies will receive exclusive access to an interactive portal with detailed benchmarks and insights that can be segmented by size, outcomes, and more.

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Home-Based Care Providers Face Major Losses Ahead of Vaccine Mandates

Home-based care agencies all across the country are racing toward – or already moved past – effective dates of vaccine mandates in their respective areas.

And as they continue staff-education efforts internally while following outside legal challenges to mandates, providers are struggling to keep workers who refuse to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

“We are still plateaued at about a 63% vaccination rate,” Kevin Smith, president and COO of Best of Care, told Home Health Care News. “Of the remaining, we are in pretty much daily communication to find out what these aides are planning to do, given that there is an Oct. 31 vaccine deadline here in Massachusetts.”

READ THE REST @ Home Health Care News

Pandemic, Worker Shortage Pose Major Challenges to Long-Term Care Industry

The COVID-19 pandemic is still wreaking havoc on the long-term care industry, months after the wave of deaths and illnesses began to ease in nursing homes.
Deaths in long-term care facilities have plummeted since the vaccine rollout began last December, but residents and workers still make up roughly 1 in every 3 COVID-19 deaths in the United States. Now, they’re facing a workforce exodus, and the toll is serving as a catalyst for lawmakers, advocates and health care providers to reimagine how the country provides for the elderly and people with disabilities — as well as the roughly 4.5 million workers charged with their care, many of whom are low-income women of color.

“This country can no longer kick this can down the road,” said April Verrett, chair of the Service Employees International Union’s national home care council and president of a local in California. Going forward, long-term care should “deliver the care that people need and not neglect the workers who work in that system, because it goes hand in hand.”

Home Care Training Summit on October 21

Home Care Pulse will hold the Home Care Training Summit on October 21, 2021. In this free, full-day event, Home Care Pulse’s training experts—together with other top experts we’ve gathered from around the industry—will talk about the most important topics in training and give you the knowledge you need to use it as a competitive advantage.
The conference will address topics like:

- What’s changing in training, and what you can do to provide the best training around
- How to use training programs to power caregiver recruitment and retention
- How to get caregivers to embrace new training program.
- Why training managers have one of the most important jobs in home care

Learn more about the 2021 Home Care Training Summit.

Webinar: Well-Being, Stress and Trauma

- October 20, 2021 10:00AM ET, 11:00AM CST
- REGISTER
- This webinar is free

During this webinar, Quint Studer will review the well-being tools and most importantly how to best use them. He'll walk through the assessment tools and then help you prioritize the tactics based upon your organization’s specific needs. The webinar, well-being tools and resources are available to you at no charge. This is one more way of saying thank you to courageous healthcare workers and the difference they make.

Quint Studer has always had an active interest in mental health. On the personal side, he is a recovering alcoholic in his 39th year of sobriety. Professionally, he serves on the boards of Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation and TriHealth, so he has seen the impact the pandemic is having on healthcare professionals.
That’s why Quint has devoted his time and energy to helping organizations navigate stress, burnout, and trauma, thereby helping leaders replenish their own emotional bank account and those of their employees. Many people have asked for and have downloaded the Well-being Tools and Resources. With the amount of interest these tools have created, we have decided to do a complimentary webinar for those in healthcare and anyone else who may find the information helpful.

Creating a New Generation of Home Care Leaders with the NAHC Mentoring Program

The National Association for Home Care and Hospice (NAHC) is pleased to announce the launch of a new membership benefit, the NAHC Mentoring Program. This program seeks to pair individuals at the early and middle growth stage of their careers with current established leaders of the home care and community-based service industry for a structured mentorship with the goal of fostering involvement and growth in the NAHC Community through:

- Networking
- Navigating Conferences
- Committee Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Advocacy Efforts

The NAHC Mentoring Program is a great new opportunity for up-and-coming industry professionals to learn how to navigate and excel in the Association and how best to use membership to benefit their career. For established industry veterans, the NAHC Mentoring Program is a great opportunity for established leaders to give back to the industry and lay a strong foundation for the next generation of home care and hospice executives.
RESOURCES

The Human Experience 2020: Vision for the Future of Health Care - The Beryl Institute

Littler Operational Guidelines for the Home Care Industry Amid COVID 19 - Littler Mendelson, P.C.

Private Duty Home Care at NAHC is a fully integrated service line of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice focused on Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Innovation exclusively for the private duty home care community.

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Private Duty Home Care at NAHC
228 Seventh Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
phone: (202) 547-7424