

**BAYADA Home Health Care
Minimum Wage Increase Public Statement
May 2019**

“BAYADA Home Health Care supports legislation to increase the minimum wage, as we believe our employees deserve a wage that is commensurate to the quality of care they consistently and expertly deliver in the comfort of the homes of our community’s most vulnerable residents, and the rigorous training, certification and continual evaluation they undergo to ensure the safety of our clients at the highest professional standards.

“We know—and more importantly, the clients served each day by our home health aides truly know—the value of the safety, independence, comfort, and peace-of-mind provided by our aides is worth much more than these skilled healthcare professionals receive.

“We believe this wage increase will help combat an industry-wide employment crisis stemming from our inability to recruit and retain a qualified workforce, and as our wages and benefits are dictated by Medicaid reimbursement rates, the state must provide appropriate funding. With an aging population creating a growing need for caregivers, home health aide wage increases support a powerful workforce development opportunity to provide meaningful jobs with upward mobility. Without proper funding to support wage increases, the industry will struggle to attract purpose-driven, highly trained caregivers who can continue to meet the growing demand for safe, dependable care at home.

“However, we caution that if Medicaid program funding to licensed home health care agencies is not increased in tandem and at pace with wage mandates, and if funding does not cover all other costs associated with increased wages—such as payroll taxes—many home care providers are at risk of closing their doors or eliminating home-based Medicaid care, putting thousands of vulnerable residents at risk and many caregivers out of work. In the absence of accessible at-home care, the most cost-effective health care option for seniors, Medicaid participants will be forced into costlier institutionalized care at a much greater government expense.

“Our licensed, certified aides provide a lifeline to our community’s neediest residents, and we’re hopeful our elected officials will protect the many seniors and individuals with disabilities that rely upon Medicaid services by ensuring adequate funding this year and in future budgets.”