



DC Long Term Care Coalition

www.dclongtermcare.org

The Honorable Christina Henderson
Chair, Committee on Health
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 402
Washington, DC, 20004

On behalf of the Long Term Care Coalition, we want to thank you and all the members of the DC Council for your continued efforts to address the healthcare workforce crisis. As you are aware, the District's health care workforce shortage has not abated. Providers are still struggling to hire and retain qualified staff and more and more seniors and people with disabilities are going without needed care. We therefore were excited to see the unanimous vote in favor of the Certified Nurse Aide Amendment Act of 2024 at the legislative session held on September 17 and to learn that a final vote has been scheduled for October 1. This legislation contains important regulatory reforms that will help address some of the barriers that employers face trying to recruit qualified staff and includes a small pay increase for certain direct care workers who work in home and community-based settings.

While we fully support this legislation, we believe this is only a first step. Wages for direct care workers, even with this modest increase, remain too low, training remains costly and difficult to access given the recent loss of so many training schools and regulatory barriers continue to impede the ability of newly certified workers and workers from other jurisdictions from securing employment in DC.

With so much more to do to address this crisis, we are grateful for your leadership and our partnership with your staff. We look forward to working with you and other members of the Council to identify and implement creative solutions and to ensure that all residents do not go without needed care.

Thank you,

Luis Chavez
DC Coalition on Long Term Care Convener

Claudia Schlosberg
Chair Workforce Development Committee