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NEWS RELEASE

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Dwindling Health and Long-Term Services and Supports Workforce A Threat to Iowa Families and Employers

There are currently over 750,000 baby boomers in Iowa and 70% of those aged 65 and over will need some form of long-term services and supports, according to the Administration on Aging. And while most of the care and support is provided by the over 300,000 family caregivers, they aren't always equipped to provide higher levels of care, and those still working are not able to leave the financial security of their jobs.

A recent "Point in Time" sample survey of health and long-term services and supports employers conducted by Iowa Workforce Development for Iowa CareGivers revealed:

- ✓ 287 of 319 Health and Long-Term Care/Service Employers reported a total of 1,826 vacancies for direct care positions! These vacancies are further compounded by an expected 539 retirements in the next year. There are approximately 1700 licensed Iowa providers listed by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals in Iowa that include nursing homes, hospitals, hospices, home health agencies, and other providers.
- ✓ There are nearly 50,000 working in the three occupational titles of certified nursing assistant, personal care aide, and home health aide, and an estimated additional 20,000 direct care workers serving individuals with disabilities, and other titles such as psychiatric aides and others not included in the Workforce Development report.
- ✓ Average Wages for Entry Level to Experienced Direct Care Positions:

Certified Nursing Assistants:	\$10.00-\$13.22/HR
Home Health Aides	\$9.23-\$11.74/HR
Personal Care Aides	\$9.01-11.63/HR

Report found here: http://www.iowacaregivers.org/advocacy/direct_care_workforce_issues.php#.WAUPoWfruM8

In addition, the Asset Limited Income Challenged Employed (ALICE) report recently released by United Ways of Iowa revealed that 68% of Iowa jobs pay less than \$20/HR and 48% of those pay between \$10 - \$15/HR.

<http://www.uwiowa.org/united-way-alice-report-iowa>

Numerous national studies including those by the Institute on Medicine have predicted dire consequences and impact on the ability to maintain a stable workforce to serve the needs of the ever-increasing demand for health and long-term care supports and services. Further compromising the stability of this sector of the workforce and quality of care is a high turnover, approximately 60% in Iowa nursing homes in 2015.

These findings and others can help to inform decisions by elected officials and stakeholders to ensure Iowa stands strong to place a high priority on the safety and well-being of all Iowans who need assistance.

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