



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 15, 2020

Aging Advocates Oppose Veto Override of AB 76

The **Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network** is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

Core member organizations:

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW)

Alzheimer's Association SE Wisconsin Chapter

Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA)

Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A)

Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS)

Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND)

Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC)

Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)

Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA)

Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

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Wisconsin – The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is deeply concerned about the Assembly's scheduled vote this afternoon to override Governor Evers' veto of AB 76. This bill would reduce the required training hours for certified nurse aides (CNAs) by nearly 40 percent (from 120 hours to 75 hours).

"Reducing CNA training hours is not the answer to this workforce shortage," said Robert Kellerman, Executive Director of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources and WAAN Chair, "and this reduction could be harmful to our most vulnerable populations. It is critical people understand CNAs not only assist with basic care needs but are the eyes and ears of the medical and long-term care team. Their training and compensation should reflect the skills and knowledge required to perform high-quality work."

More than half the states in the country have chosen to require more than the minimum federal standard of 75 hours for nurse aide training. Increased training results in increased job satisfaction and reduced job turnover. Wisconsin's current CNA training curriculum provides workers the required instruction to work in all types of licensed health care facilities (e.g., nursing homes, home health agencies, hospice agencies, hospitals, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities). State-approved training programs must include the following six areas of care: interpersonal communication and social interaction, basic nursing skills, personal care skills, basic restorative services, rights of clients, and dementias. Condensing this training into fewer hours does a disservice to future workers and those for whom they provide care. Let's give workers the competence and confidence they need to do the job well by providing comprehensive pre-employment training and continuing education.

Rather than reduce the required training for this valuable and critical segment of the direct care workforce, we encourage members of the State Assembly to await the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Caregiving. The Task Force is made up of a wide variety of stakeholders including legislators, providers, caregivers, and advocates and will soon be releasing its recommendations for attracting and retaining a strong direct-care workforce.

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network is a collaborative group of 10 statewide associations and numerous individuals working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

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