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Contact: Lisa Reibsome  
Director of Communications  
lisareibsome@hcam.org  
517.622.6188

## **HCAM Applauds Budget that Supports Long-Term Care Providers and Residents**

LANSING, MI – With a mission to promote excellence in senior care, the Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) thanks the state Legislature for continuing to prioritize Michigan’s long-term care profession. Specifically, the state budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2023, includes worker wage increases for direct care workers and non-clinical staff at long-term care facilities.

“HCAM commends our state lawmakers for passing the 2024 fiscal year state budget that supports Michigan’s skilled nursing and assisted living caregivers and the residents entrusted to their care,” said HCAM President and CEO Melissa Samuel. “Increasing the direct care worker wage by 85-cents-an-hour recognizes the selfless CNAs, LPNs, RNs and respiratory therapists who continue every day to serve our seniors and other vulnerable Michiganders. In addition, expanding the wage increase to include the vital non-direct care workers employed in Michigan’s nursing facilities helps to strengthen the workforce and ultimately the care provided to residents.”

Samuel continued, “With unprecedented worker shortages continuing, providers are striving to fill open positions and retain current employees — offering increased wages, strengthening benefits, providing flexible schedules, and much more. The wage increases in the state budget will go a long way to help ensure that skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities remain a viable option for Michigan’s seniors.”

She concluded, “HCAM looks forward to Governor Gretchen Whitmer signing the budget and to our continued partnership with state policymakers in building a future that better serves our long-term care facilities and the thousands of people in our state who call them home.”

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