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Contact: Lisa Reibsome
Director of Communications
lisareibsome@hcam.org
517.449.2256

HCAM Applauds Legislature on Approval of Med Aides in Nursing Facilities

LANSING, MI – The Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) thanks state lawmakers for passing bills to improve nursing facility resident care and workforce shortages.

“On behalf of our 360 skilled nursing facility members, we are pleased that the Michigan Legislature passed House Bills 4885 and 4923 allowing certified nurse aides (CNAs) with additional training to become registered medication aides in nursing facilities,” said HCAM President and CEO Melissa Samuel. “Under the supervision of a nurse, trained medication aides now would be able to administer certain medications to nursing facility residents, following a controlled procedure. This will improve resident safety as medication aides will be able to focus solely on passing medication, allowing nurses to spend more time assessing residents. In fact, experience in other states shows med pass errors decrease with the use of medication aides.”

Samuel continued, “Allowing for medication aides also provides a career ladder for CNAs to advance their careers in the long-term care sector. In addition, CNAs often perform very physical work, which takes a toll. Being able to train to become a medication aide allows people to stay in the long-term care workforce longer. HCAM thanks the bill sponsors, Representatives Donovan McKinney and Joe Aragona, along with the entire Michigan House and Senate, as well as state department officials and HCAM members for supporting this much needed legislation. We urge Governor Gretchen Whitmer to sign the bills so Michigan nursing facilities can continue to provide the highest level of care to residents.”

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