



## *Press Release*

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### **Health Care for Healthcare Workers: Perspectives on Insuring Pennsylvania's Direct Care Workforce**

PITTSBURGH – Thousands of healthcare workers in Pennsylvania are providing health care that they and their children cannot afford to receive.

The Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI) and Rep. Todd Eachus, Majority Policy Chairman, will host a stakeholder forum Friday, May 4, to highlight the importance of health coverage for the direct care workforce and how the Prescription for Pennsylvania addresses this issue. The event will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on the 31<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Regional Enterprise Tower, 425 Sixth Ave.

"With the nation's third-oldest population and the fastest-growing segment of people over 80, long-term care must be a top priority for the Commonwealth," Eachus said. "Quality care starts with direct care workers, and lawmakers need to know the facts about what these professionals face every day."

Speakers representing direct care workers, consumers and home care employers will brief legislators on issues surrounding the direct care workforce and long-term care reform. These speakers include Greg Howe, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor's Office of Health Care Reform; Linda Betinazzi, Executive Director, Visiting Nurses Association of Indiana County; John Tague, Policy Director, United Cerebral Palsy of Pittsburgh; Karen Goroncy, a personal care attendant from Washington County; and Carol Regan, Director of PHI's Health Care for Healthcare Workers Initiative.

"We are delighted that the Democratic Policy Committee, the Governor's Office of Health Reform, and many other key stakeholders recognize the importance of health coverage for direct-care workers by participating in our event," said Regan. "We hope that we will all leave Friday's forum supporting efforts to expand affordable coverage to thousands of Pennsylvanians including caregivers, the lifeline for our aging and disabled citizens."

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The Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the long-term health care workforce. Its initiatives focus on developing innovative approaches to recruitment, training, and supervision; client-centered caregiving practices; and effective public policy. PHI believes that creating quality jobs for direct-care workers is essential to providing high-quality, cost-effective services to long-term care consumers.

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