

MEDIA ADVISORY
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The 5% CAMPAIGN
Committing to Life in the Community for
People with Disabilities & Older Adults

Statewide disability/senior coalition to hold news conference and urge legislators to address workforce crisis

What: The 5% Campaign, a coalition of more than 130 disability and older adult service organizations, will hold a news conference on **Thursday, April 30th at 11:30am**. Supporters will urge state legislators to include a sustainable, ongoing rate increase for Home & Community-Based Services to address the caregiver workforce crisis. (Minnesota's House included a one-time 5% rate increase in their budget, and the Senate did not include an increase.) Throughout the day, large numbers of supporters are expected at the Capitol to advocate for the urgent need.

Who: Due to past budget cuts and rising costs, the 90,000 Minnesotan caregivers who support people with disabilities and older adults in community-based services are woefully underpaid. Caregivers will share personal stories about the difficult, highly-skilled, and crucial work they do. They will ask legislators to fund an ongoing rate increase to ensure fairer caregiver wages and more consistent care for the people they support.

Speakers will be available for interviews and will include:

- Sam Subah, Caregiver, Living Well Disability Services - Mendota Heights
- Lynne Jensen, Caregiver, Wingspan Life Resources - St. Paul
- Jon Nelson, Executive Director, Residential Services, Inc. - Duluth

When: The conference will begin at **11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 30th**, and last approximately 30 minutes with time for questions. Press kits and statements will be available for the media.

Where: Room 181, State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, St. Paul

Why: Funding for community-based services in Minnesota is determined by state reimbursement rates. While a 5% rate increase last session was a major step in the right direction, a serious staffing crisis continues to challenge Minnesota's Home and Community-Based Services. **An additional and ongoing rate increase will enable service providers to offer more competitive wages, increase staff retention, and continue to ensure a consistent, high quality standard of care.** Investing in the long-term care workforce now is critical to the sustainability of these essential services that promote independence, meet health and safety needs, and allow people to contribute to their communities.

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The 5% Campaign is a nonpartisan coalition of 130+ organizations dedicated to securing a 5% rate increase for Minnesota's Home & Community-Based Services in 2015 & 2016. Its proposal ([HF 564](#) and [SF 647](#)) will support people with disabilities, older adults and 90,000 caregivers in Minnesota. For a list of organizational and legislative supporters, please visit the [5% webpage](#).