

Washington State Home Care Coalition

2007 Legislative Agenda

The Washington State Home Care Coalition has represented those agencies that provide COPES, Medicaid Personal Care, and other state-funded home care services for over 20 years. The Coalition consists of 23 home care agencies representing every area of the state, as well as representatives from the Area Agencies on Aging, organized labor, and other concerned parties. Following is a list of items that the Coalition would like to see addressed this year.

1. VENDOR RATE INCREASE FOR HOME CARE AGENCIES:

Home care agencies need a vendor rate increase. While the direct labor costs are increased yearly by the “Parity Bill” tied to the SEIU Local 775 IP contract, the administrative portion of the vendor rate, which includes such things as supervision, advanced training, liability insurance, and other mandatory costs of doing business has only increased four cents over the last four years, which is only seventh tenths of one percent over four years. Obviously, this increase has not kept up with the rising costs of doing business.

The Governor’s budget included a VRI for other Long Term Care settings including Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Adult Family Homes or 3.2% in 2007 and 2.0% in 2008. We believe that all Long Term Care partners should be included in this VRI, including home care agencies. The estimated cost of this VRI for home care agencies is \$3.8 million GF-S.

2. SUPPORT THE SEIU IP CONTRACT

The SEIU IP Contract provides much needed wage and benefit increases to direct care workers in home care. Adequate wages and benefits provide a stable, safe, and well-trained workforce in home care.

3. SUPPORT THE ELDERCARE ALLIANCE

The Home Care Coalition supports the values and positions of the Eldercare Alliance, providing support and equity across the spectrum of long-term care. Support is needed for Respite, the Family Caregiver Program, Adult Day Care, Case Management, Dementia Care, Adult Family Homes, and all other Long Term Care Settings.

