

I think one of the real solutions is to change how we think about these workers. Their status has to be elevated. Their importance has to be enhanced. It is a profession and it should be treated as a profession. Spending a day with a direct-care worker helps to do that.

—U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D) PA



I came away with a greater understanding of how difficult the work is, and how valuable these workers are.

—State Representative Lisa Heddens, (D) IA

At the end of the day it is just good public policy [to invest in direct-care workers], and in the long run saves money.

—State Representative Dan Frankel, (D) PA



Learn More

See www.PHInational.org/comecare to learn more about the *Come Care with Me* program. Here you'll find our Come Care with Me video library and links to local media coverage inspired by CCWM events.



PHI (www.PHInational.org) works to improve the lives of people who need home and residential care—and the lives of the workers who provide that care. Using our workplace and policy expertise, we help consumers, workers, employers, and policymakers improve eldercare and disability services by creating quality direct-care jobs. Our goal is to ensure caring, stable relationships between consumers and workers, so that both may live with dignity, respect, and independence.



Health Care for Health Care Workers, an initiative of PHI, seeks to ensure quality health coverage for workers who provide support and assistance to elders and people living with chronic conditions and/or disabilities. Visit www.coverageiscritical.org.

For more information: Contact Allison Lee at 202.223.8355 or ailee@PHInational.org.

To learn more about the direct-care workforce, visit PHI PolicyWorks at www.PHInational.org/policy.

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An invitation for consumers, direct-care workers, employers, and policymakers to experience the frontlines of caregiving—together.



The experience reinforced my belief that we need to provide support and resources for direct-care workers. —Representative Matt Smith, (D) PA

Come Care with Me brings an employer, a direct-care worker, a consumer, and a policymaker together to better understand the rewards and challenges of the direct-care job. In short, a legislator is invited to shadow a direct-care worker as she goes about her day, and have a real “hands-on” experience of this essential work. This may take place at a long-term care facility or in a consumer’s home.



State Representative Sheryl Delozier speaks with a resident of Messiah Village, and her caregiver Ilene Romanski.

Originally launched in Pennsylvania as a project of the PHI Health Care for Health Care Workers Campaign, *Come Care with Me* has become a very effective tool for raising awareness about the importance of direct-care work—and the need to improve the quality of these essential jobs through better wages, access to health coverage, and improved training opportunities.

Most people don't realize how difficult our jobs are and how close we are to the residents. We really want to thank Representative Heddens for spending time with us and getting to know us and our work.

—Michael Dittert
Direct-Care Worker
Madrid Home, Madrid, IA

Why Participate?

- **For Policymakers:** This is a unique opportunity to gain a better understanding of the strenuous nature of direct-care work, the difficulties employers face in recruiting and retaining workers, and the critical role the worker plays in the life of the consumer. The on-site time commitment for a policymaker is generally less than two hours.
- **For employers:** *Come Care with Me* is a chance to show your legislator what it takes to provide consumers with quality care, to talk about the challenges of recruiting and retaining workers, and what you need to succeed in today’s business climate.
- **For workers and consumers:** This is an opportunity to get involved and make a difference. Policymakers need to see and experience the important role that direct-care workers play in the lives of consumers, and how this care enables elders and people with disabilities to live with dignity.



State Rep. Jesse White helps Larry Smith get ready to leave for work.



State Representative Lisa Heddens assists Jessie Jungck, a direct-care worker, with her client.

Coordination and Media Support

Come Care with Me is a great way to raise public awareness about the need to improve the quality of direct-care jobs. PHI is prepared to help you coordinate and facilitate the event, as well as provide media outreach support.

“Come Care with Me” was a wonderful experience. Senator Jay Costa was very receptive in listening to the many issues home care agencies are facing.

—Nikki Falavolito, BSN, RN
Branch Manager
ResCare HomeCare, Pittsburgh, PA

I was surprised to learn we'll need over 4.3 million workers by 2018. We must make sure that we provide these workers with proper support in the form of a fair wage, affordable health care, and sufficient training in order to meet the needs of our elderly and disabled.

—State Representative Sheryl Delozier,
(R) PA



Accept Our Invitation

Are you interested in participating in a *Come Care with Me* event? Contact Allison Lee at 202.223.8355 or alee@PHInational.org to get involved.