

Paraprofessional Healthcare INSTITUTE

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17 August 2006

Dear Director:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI), I am writing to urge you to participate in the National Home and Hospice Care Survey, conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics.

For the first time in its history, the National Home and Hospice Care Survey will gather information directly from **home health aides** working for home health and hospice agencies, which is crucial to helping industry leaders such as yourself recruit and retain a highly-qualified, direct-care staff.

PHI is a national healthcare institute that focuses exclusively on the recruitment and retention of paraprofessional workers in long-term care – home health aides, certified nursing assistants and personal care attendants. For this reason, PHI is highly supportive of the new *National Home Health Aide Survey*, and I hope you in turn will urge the staff at your agency to participate.

From this special survey, the long-term care field will learn from home health aides about:

- Φ How and why they became home health aides;
- Φ Their work history and experiences;
- Φ What they like about being home health aides;
- Φ How the demands of the job affect them individually; and
- Φ If they are thinking of leaving the field, what opportunities and changes might keep them working in long-term care.

The entire field will share in the findings of the survey, which will help providers and policymakers develop new programs and public policies to address the growing "care gap" across the nation – many more individuals needing care with too few workers able and willing to provide that care.

We have been assured that names of participating home health aides from your agency, and where they work, will be kept private; the original data will be used for statistical purposes only. Therefore, strict provisions of confidentiality are maintained. Only summary data will be published and made available to health professionals such as yourself, health planners, researchers, and the public.

Quality Care through Quality Jobs



The willingness of the home health aides selected from your agency to participate will be essential to ensure that the survey is an accurate representation from across the country. *Please* encourage the home health aides selected from your agency to take part in the *National Home Health Aide Survey*. We at PHI believe you will find the information from this survey worthy of your help, and worthy of the participation of the home health aides within your agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S.L. Dawson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven L. Dawson
President