

**ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 117**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 16, 1996

**By Assemblywoman FRISCIA, Assemblymen Wisniewski, Green,  
Barnes, Greenwald, Assemblywomen Quigley, Gill, Buono,  
Weinberg and Cruz-Perez**

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** expressing support for the work of home health  
2 aides and urging the Governor and the Commissioner of Human Services  
3 to refrain from cutting the hourly rates for personal care assistant services  
4 through the State Medicaid program.  
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- 6 **WHEREAS**, Through personal care assistant services in the State Medicaid  
7 program, home health aides provide basic personal care to more than  
8 8,900 frail, elderly and disabled citizens each year; and  
9 **WHEREAS**, Personal care recipients often need assistance with bathing,  
10 dressing, meal preparation, hygiene, exercise and walking in order to  
11 remain in the familiar surrounding of their homes and avoid going to nursing  
12 homes which they often find bleak; and  
13 **WHEREAS**, Home care alternatives for long term care are more cost effective  
14 than nursing home care resulting in savings of millions of dollars to the State  
15 each year; and  
16 **WHEREAS**, Personal care assistant services through the State Medicaid  
17 program provide employment to an estimated 18,000-20,000 certified  
18 home health aides, many of whom would be unemployed and on welfare  
19 without such employment; and  
20 **WHEREAS**, The Governor's original proposed budget for FY 1997 reduced  
21 funding for personal care assistant services through the State Medicaid  
22 program by proposing a reduction in the reimbursement rates provided to  
23 personal care providers; the Legislature subsequently restored part of this  
24 proposed cut and provided language maintaining that the hourly rates  
25 provided for personal care assistant services shall not be changed in FY  
26 1997; however, the final appropriations act deleted such language, thus  
27 allowing for a rate change; and  
28 **WHEREAS**, A cut in the hourly rates provided for personal care assistant  
29 services would impair the important work of home health aides, who must  
30 be trained and certified, and the provider agencies, who must provide  
31 supervisory services and meet new costs associated with increasing  
32 regulatory requirements, and could

1 ultimately result in the elimination of the entire program; now, therefore,

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3 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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5 1. This House expresses its support and recognition of the important  
6 work accomplished by home health aides.

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8 2. The Governor and the Commissioner of Human Services are  
9 respectfully urged to refrain from cutting the hourly rates for personal care  
10 assistant services through the State Medicaid program.

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12 3. A duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of  
13 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly,  
14 shall be forwarded to the Governor and the Commissioner of Human Services.

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STATEMENT

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19 This resolution expresses the support and recognition of the General  
20 Assembly for the important work accomplished by home health aides and  
21 urges the Governor and the Commissioner of Human Services to refrain from  
22 cutting the hourly rates for personal care assistant services through the State  
23 Medicaid program.

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28 Expresses support and recognition for work of home health aides and urges  
29 Governor and Commissioner of Human Services to refrain from cutting hourly  
30 rates for personal care assistant services through State Medicaid program.