

1 **NYSAC 2021 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution Urging the Governor and Legislature to Address the Severe**
5 **Deficit of Qualified Home Health Care Professionals in New York**

6 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has dramatically increased the demand for in home services,
7 with clients and their families preferring to receive care in their own homes rather than
8 in nursing homes; and

9 **WHEREAS**, New York has not been able to attract qualified home health care
10 professionals to fulfill these needs even before COVID-19, and we need concrete
11 solutions to address this urgent need; and

12 **WHEREAS**, “The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021” contains a spending plan
13 supporting three categories one of which is *Supporting and Strengthening the Direct*
14 *Care Workforce*; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the rate increases that are part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
16 which expands capacity of programs and access does not directly give any compensation
17 to the direct line staff; and

18 **WHEREAS**, county officials recommend the Department of Health (DOH) consider
19 the following to address recruitment and retention shortcomings for our long-term care
20 workforce:

- 21 • career ladders,
- 22 • assistance with transportation (car loan forgiveness) or bus passes,
- 23 • a traveling per diem staff pool,
- 24 • assistance with childcare,
- 25 • job sharing,
- 26 • career milestone incentives, among others, and
- 27 • standardizing language and communication needs; and

28 **WHEREAS**, counties stand at the ready to be part of this solution/dialogue to address
29 recruitment and retention of qualified home health care professionals so we can all
30 fulfill our mission and have our communities safely age in place in their own homes.

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
32 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and Legislature to support programs that will
33 encourage recruitment and retention in our long-term care workforce; and

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the state needs to demonstrate a real partnership
35 now, to ensure families and individuals can find qualified home health care
36 professionals in New York; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
2 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
4 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed
5 necessary and proper.