

**From:** [Leslie Emerick](#)  
**To:** [Meneses, Jilma \(DSHS/OOS\)](#); [DSHS WA CARES Fund](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on WA Cares Act-LTSS Commission Vote on Exclusion of non-Medicaid Home Care and Home Health Agencies  
**Date:** Friday, October 6, 2023 10:02:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [LTSS Comments HCAOA-HCAW - \(1\).docx](#)

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External Email

Dear Secretary Meneses and Member of the LTSS Commission;

The Home Care Association of America-WA Chapter and the Home Care Association of Washington are submitting the attached comments for consideration by the LTSS Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Leslie Emerick*

Home Care Association of WA (HCAW), Public Policy Director  
Home Care Association of America-WA Chapter (HCAOA-WA), Lobbyist  
360-280-6142  
[lesemerick@lkemerick.com](mailto:lesemerick@lkemerick.com)



October 6, 2023

**To:** Long-Term Services & Supports Trust Commission  
**From:** HCAOA-WA Chapter and the Home Care Association of WA  
**Re:** Recommendations for Home Care and Home Health Agencies Participation

Dear Chair, Secretary Gilma Meneses, and Members of the Commission;

The Home Care Association of America-Washington Chapter and the Home Care Association of Washington write to you today to request reconsideration of the recently proposed minimum qualifications for Group 1 Providers, which includes in-home personal care. In the [LTSS Trust Commission Presentation](#) (slide 27) dated September 19, 2023, the Commission recommended that family funded home care providers be excluded from accessing WA Cares Act funding if they do not have a contract to provide Medicaid services.

The intent behind the WA Cares Act was to ensure that all working citizens of our state were able to avail themselves of long-term care when and where they needed it. This new minimum qualification will only serve to frustrate that original intent. It should also be noted that the recommendations failed to mention home health providers at all, leading to substantial confusion.

According to [DSHS Client Data](#), 60% of Washington's citizens are not on Medicaid. Excluding home care and home health agencies that serve this population is unacceptable. We implore the LTSS Commission to revisit this issue during the meeting scheduled for October 25, 2023. We do not believe that sufficient notice of these onerous recommendations was provided to stakeholders in the home care and home health industries and feel our feedback is crucial to the LTSS Commission.

We also request that the open position on the LTSS Commission be filled by a representative who can address the private pay home care and home health issues impacted by the WA Cares Act. After all, we provide care to the vast majority of Washingtonians who do not qualify for Medicaid.

Our associations were actively involved in the formation and implementation of the WA Cares Act and threw our support behind it. We were under the impression that all home care and home health agencies in Washington state were going to be able to provide care to participants in the WA Cares Act programs.

We urge you to reconsider the recommendations described above and ask that you add a member that represents private pay home care and home health agencies to your commission.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter. We look forward to continuing to be an active partner with the Commission in getting care to all those who need it. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Leslie Emerick  
Home Care Association of America-WA Chapter  
Home Care Association of Washington  
lesemerick@lkemerick.com  
360-280-6142

**From:** [dee dee](#)  
**To:** [DSHS WA CARES Fund](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ON LTC TAX  
**Date:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 1:11:42 PM

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External Email

Hello,

This is not my first public comment on LTC Tax. All efforts in trying to get extension to opt out of State mandated tax has failed. The LTC definition for all cultures is very different . Many people like me were forced to sign up with private carrier and then find out that due to change of jobs , they were not aware that they had to get exception form before Dec 31, 2022. Now double dipping with private insurance and state taking a piece of your pay check os very painful. This LTC should be optional for people . You cannot think everyone definition of LTC is American like sign up with Insurance company or state making decisions on such issues. This bill should be put in front of voters or make this optional or give new extension to people who were forced to sign up so they are not throwing away their hard earnery or paying 2 systems. I will urge the advocates of this bill to make this optional rather than forcing it down everyone's throat.

Deep Mangat