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17 August 2006

Dear Home Health Aide:

I am pleased to tell you that you have been chosen to participate in the first-in-thenation National Home Health Aide Survey – a study of home health aides like yourself employed by home health or hospice agencies. It is being conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics.

Your participation is very important. As you know better than anyone else, our entire nation is facing a major shortage of home health aides — people like you who assist older adults and people with disabilities in their home or community settings. As the generation of "baby boomers" get older, the need for home care and hospice services will grow. Over the next ten years, this growing need will mean our country will have to hire thousands of additional home health aides, to care for our aging parents, neighbors, and friends.

My organization, PHI, is a national healthcare institute that works with direct-care workers – home health aides, certified nursing assistants and personal care attendants. For this reason, PHI is very supportive of the new National Home Health Aide Survey.

Only you, and others like you, can tell us about your experiences — and about the demands of your work and your views on what can be done to improve your job. Hearing directly from you will help others better understand the role of home health aides, the good things about your work, and the challenges you face in caring for those needing your care.

We have to hear from you and other home health aides directly if we are to learn how to keep more caregivers like you in the field. Therefore, I encourage you to complete the survey and share your knowledge.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Dawson President

P.S.: I have been personally assured that what you say in the survey will be kept strictly confidential by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. None of the information you provide will ever be given to anyone in your agency, including not to your supervisor, nor to any of your patients.

Quality Care through Quality Jobs