

Paraprofessional Healthcare INSTITUTE

349 East 149th Street, 10th Floor · Bronx, New York 10451
Telephone: 718-402-7766 · Fax: 718-585-6852 · info@paraprofessional.org

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Dear Nursing Assistant:

I am pleased to tell you that you have been chosen to participate in the first-in-the-nation *National Nursing Assistant Survey*—a study of nursing assistants like yourself that will be conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics.

Your survey is very important. As you know better than anyone else, our entire nation is facing a major shortage of nursing assistants—a shortage of people like you who assist residents in nursing homes and home care. As the generation of “baby boomers” get older, the need for long-term care will grow. Over the next ten years, this growing need will mean our country will have to hire *hundreds of thousands* of additional nursing assistants to care for our loved ones.

My organization, PHI, is a national healthcare institute that works with direct-care workers—certified nurse aides, home care aides and personal care attendants. For this reason, PHI is very supportive of the new *National Nursing Assistant Survey*. PHI helped review the survey, and we believe it will prove to be very useful to everyone who cares about nursing home workers and their clients.

Only you, and others like you, can tell us about your experiences—especially 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 nursing assistants, 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 nursing assistants directly if we are to learn how to keep more nursing assistants 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. No one in your nursing home—not your supervisor and none of your residents—will be shown your survey.