

February 13, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Family Goes to Washington D.C. to Advocate for Home Care *Passing bill saves valuable state healthcare dollars*

St. Paul, Minn. – For five-year-old Claire, being able to stay at home with her parents and sister is vital to her happiness, and her ability to live life as normal as possible.



Claire was born with myelomeningocele and Chiari Malformation Type II (Spina Bifida), leaving her with a tracheostomy and in a wheelchair today. Claire also requires 18 hours nursing at home per day to keep her safe and healthy.

“Without our nurses at home we would not be able to work, sleep regularly, do every day normal things,” said Becca Wurgler, Claire’s mom. “Our nurses aren’t just nurses, they keep our child safe at home every day.”

Currently, with the shortage of nurses in the workforce, home care companies like PHS are unable to adequately recruit and retain home care nurses. While home care nurses have extensive training and deliver the same complex, high-quality care as hospital-based nurses, they are paid significantly less. This disparity in pay leads to a severe shortage of home care nurses.

In response to the nursing shortage, PHS has been working for the past year to redesign the home care model to ensure the limited nursing resources are used most effectively. Recognizing that home care provides the state with significant savings over hospital and clinic care, the goal is to transition new patients from hospital to home as soon as they are stable enough. However, due to the lack of home care nurses, hospital discharges across the state are being consistently delayed.

The Wurglers understand the severity of losing their home care nurses and the impact that would have on their family. “If we didn’t have nurses, Claire could be sent back into the hospital, which would split our family apart,” said Becca.

Family advocates, such as the Wurglers, provide a much-needed voice at the MN State Capitol, and allow for continued progress on the bill that would increase pay for pediatric home care nurses ([S.F. 319/H.F. 518](#)). An increase in pay would help stabilize staffing, and allow for hospitalized patients to discharge sooner, which in turn saves the state valuable health care dollars.





Recognizing the importance of legislation around home care, as well as the opportunity to meet and educate a broader audience on the complex pediatric population and the challenges facing home care, the Wurgler family, along with staff members of PHS, took their efforts to Washington D.C. Last week, the group visited every member of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation, as well as some of the members from Wisconsin and the Dakotas.

To learn more about the home care nursing legislative efforts please visit pediatrichomeservice.com/legislation.

About Pediatric Home Service

Based in St. Paul, Minn., Pediatric Home Service is an independent pediatric home care company that helps children with medical complexities and technology dependencies live safely and successfully where they're most comfortable, at home with their families, rather than in a hospital. Pediatric Home Service has been partnering with health care professionals and family caregivers for more than two decades to deliver compassionate, specialized, high-quality care to children with special medical needs.

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