

Senate 65

The Campaign to Strengthen Human Services

improve care • retain quality staff • enhance economic impact

Mission Statement and Endorsement

An Executive Office of Health and Human Services (HHS) report found that two decades of neglect and lack of funding have imperiled the human services provider industry. This neglect has placed the industry near bankruptcy, created high turnover among caregivers of our seniors and disabled, and produced a lack of continuity of care for them.

The state has not appropriated any money since 1987 to reflect the increased operating costs of providing care in community-based settings. Because of this neglect, **a majority of providers are struggling to maintain quality service as they have faced two decades of rising rents, insurance premiums, utilities and transportation costs.**

This has led to the severe crisis in care that is being felt throughout the system today. Low pay, unfilled vacancies, and massive turnover among direct care workers have led to a drop in the quality of care and subsequently compromised care.

The human services system in Massachusetts is also an important economic engine:

- 185,000 workers are employed in the field
- More than \$100 million in tax revenue is paid to the state and its cities and towns
- A payroll exceeding \$2 billion
- Among the fastest growing sectors of the economy. According to the HHS report, the workforce grew by 18 percent from 1998 to 2003, while the state's overall workforce grew only 1.7 percent during the same period

The [Campaign to Strengthen the Human Services System](#) supports S.65, legislation to modernize the outdated and ineffective procurement system of the Commonwealth's human services industry. This legislation will reform decades old funding systems to more appropriately reimburse human service providers for the care they provide.

I/we endorse, join and support the *Campaign to Strengthen Human Services*.

This is an: ___ individual ___ organizational endorsement:

Signature

Name

Title

Organization

Please fax this form to Charles Stefanini at (617) 227-1616

The Campaign to Strengthen Human Services is an initiative of the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers • Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers • Mental Health & Substance Abuse Corporations of Massachusetts