ARIZONA:
The Industrial Commission of Arizona adopted a resolution increasing the state’s minimum wage from $12.00 to $12.15, effective January 1, 2021. The ICA’s Labor Division has created an FAQ page about the upcoming minimum wage increase.

CALIFORNIA:
Recently Chapter held a webinar to introduce Jennifer Niklas, the new director for home care licensing. New software system being launched to handle home care worker background checks etc. and still awaiting court’s decision on AB2455 litigation.

CONNECTICUT:
Chapter leaders are busy working on legislative priorities including support for authorizing enforcement of non-solicitation agreements, restrictions on certain medical terms in marketing, advocating for a Medicaid rate increase, and opposition to a caregiver public registry.

Chapter leaders met with officials in the Governor’s office to discuss the issues and the importance of home care in getting businesses back to work and restoring the state’s economy. There has also been a lot of activity focusing on the Department of Consumer Protection’s heightened oversight of agencies’ use of medical terminology in their marketing and restriction on “reminding” clients to take medications.

FLORIDA:
Dealing with senior living facilities testing their employees, but not offering testing to home care aides that are providing services to residents of the facility. Also, waiting for the regulations that will allow nurse delegation of certain services to home care aides. Launched a fundraising effort for key legislators who have been supportive of home care.

GEORGIA:
The Chapter is discussing CARES funding with the Governor’s office to determine whether unexpended funds may be available. Working in conjunction with the House Speaker Pro Temp and the Senate Appropriations Chair, chapter leaders have dispersed several thousand dollars in campaign contributions to key legislative
races even though the chapter currently lacks a PAC. Among the recipients were the Chairs of the House and Senate Health Committees.

Governor Kemp recently signed legislation this month that provides limited protections to businesses from Covid-19 related suits. We had worked with the sponsors to specifically name home care workers in the delineated classes covered by the legislation. However, it was determined they were covered in the general business provisions of the bill. Meanwhile, Chapter has been communicating with the Senate Appropriations Chair Blake Tillery about prospects for Medicaid rate increase in the next fiscal year. Under the current financial situation, he believes that is unlikely without a significant injection of additional funds from Congress.

**ILLINOIS:**
Recently, Illinois took regulatory action to address the home care workforce to provide flexibility and aid recruitment. Under a new emergency rule from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) it temporarily suspends the requirement that a registered nurse conduct a supervisory visit to a patient's or client's residence. The emergency rule will allow for the supervisory visits to be conducted via electronic or telephonic means, if available. IDPH issued an additional emergency rule that allows for military personnel with medic training to serve as CNAs and allows CNAs who have been certified or licensed in another state to work in Illinois during the duration of the COVID-19 disaster declarations. Finally, IDPH’s new emergency rule temporarily suspends the provision of the Healthcare Worker Background Check Act that prohibits an individual from being hired to work as a CNA if they have been inactive on the Department’s Health Care Worker Registry. Emergency rules take effect immediately and last for 150 days after which they must follow standard rule-making process.

**KANSAS:**
Awaiting the release of new home care regulations

**MASSACHUSETTS**
Two home care licensure bills being considered – one supported by SEIU and another which is more friendly to providers.

**MICHIGAN**
Working on growing its political action committee (PAC) so HCAOA members can contribute to pro-industry candidates, the Chapter is considering home care licensing as a primary goal for the next year as well as planning for a Legislative Day in 2021.

**NEBRASKA:**
Working with the state home care association to deal with restrictions imposed on bathing.
**OHIO:**
Workgroups are underway to develop proposed rules to establish a home care agency license.

The state has also enacted a liability shield law, which protects health care providers from lawsuits related to “injury, death, or loss to property or person caused by exposure to, the transmission of, or contraction of COVID-19 or any mutation thereof,” except in the case of reckless, intentional or willful transmission. This law to claims arising between March 9, 2020, and September 30, 2021.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:**
The General Assembly is meeting the week of September 21 to finalize plans for the spending of the CARES Act funding that remains to be allocated. The Chapter has been working with staff and members of both chambers to remove as many barriers as possible so that as many of our providers will be eligible to apply as possible.

The South Carolina DHHS is expected to not request additional funds for the new year, and the agency will be facing mid-year cuts in January.

The chapter will review potential licensure changes to pursue based on fallout from the state budget talks and lessons learned during the pandemic.

**WASHINGTON:**
The Chapter signed a letter with other organizations in the long-term care community to state legislative leaders requesting that proclamations, which allow for the temporary waiver of certain training, certification and background check requirements for long-term care employers and workers be extended until February of next year. Although the Chapter supports these waivers during the pandemic, we maintain an absolute commitment to the safety and well-being of clients, workers and everyone touched by the long-term care system. The extension of these waivers will help provide our state's long-term care industry, workforce and regulatory agency with the predictability and flexibility needed to ensure there is no interruption of these essential services during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**WISCONSIN:**
The Chapter is currently drafting a letter in response to the Governor's Caregiver Task Force recommendations, which is reviewing training and a registry for direct care workers.