



# STAT facts

HEALTH CARE WORKERS COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STEELWORKERS

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## In the News:

### Illinois, California Considering Wage Hikes For Home Care Workers

Home care workers are chronically underpaid, but that could begin to change as policymakers in two U.S. states advance plans to raise wages for some workers in the industry, writes Robert Holly for Home Health Care News.

In Illinois, the state senate recently passed legislation that would raise wages by increasing the overall rate paid to the social service agencies that supply workers. The Illinois House is still considering its version of the bill.

In California, Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed as a part of his budget package a 50 percent wage increase for at-home nurses who provide care through the state's Medi-Cal program. The California legislature has until June to approve the budget.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

### Nobody Applies to More than Half of Long-Term Care Jobs in Wisconsin

Long-term care facilities in Wisconsin are struggling to attract and keep qualified workers, writes Alex Spanko for Skilled Nursing News, leading to what industry leaders are now calling a crisis.

Nearly 20 percent of these positions are unfilled, according to a [recent report](#) released by a consortium of health care trade groups. Open positions receive applications no more than half the time, the study also found.

To compensate, long-term care providers in Wisconsin are relying on strategies like overtime and double-shifts, which lead to burnout and further turnover.

The primary problem is wages. Median pay for direct care workers is significantly less than entry level wages outside the industry.

Three-quarters of long-term care providers in Wisconsin also said they do not offer health insurance to part-time workers, leaving many workers to rely on the state's Medicaid program for their own health insurance.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

## Tell Us Your Stories!

Has your local done something outstanding? Have you had a great solidarity action? Done something huge to help your community? Made significant connections with other labor groups? Is your Women of Steel or Next Gen committee making waves?

**Tell us about it!**  
Contact Jess Kamm Broomell at  
[jkamm@usw.org](mailto:jkamm@usw.org)  
or at 412-562-2446.

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