

Hello! My name is Jo Ann Lorentz. I am the owner/CEO of Lakeside Home Care, LLC.

We provide Personal Care and Homemaking services.

**I am here today because it is nearly impossible to find home health aides.**

**Why? Because the rate of pay paid by Medicaid \$14.06 per hour (this is what the agency makes per hour) Passport hourly rate \$19.68 per hour**

Now do the math.... If aides are demanding to be paid \$15-16 per hour.

The average Home Health Aide makes \$11-\$12 per hour.

We cannot compete with area fast food restaurants or bigger grocery retail stores

who are paying \$15.00 or higher. These establishments can pay higher prices because they can raise their prices to cover the cost of wages. At the rate of \$16.88 we have to pay the employees' taxes and cover overhead costs, which leaves us in the negative.

We never wanted our services to come down to money, it is about providing excellent care while patients remain in their homes. We are in a crisis right now. We cannot survive much longer without an increase in Medicaid dollars.

Just to leave you with an example of how bad the shortage is 12 AOA in Ohio is there are over 4,000.00 patients on a waiting list.ech

It is disheartening someone's Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, and or loved one's care comes down to a dollar amount, however we need to be able to pay our employees a fare livable wage. We cannot compete with your local grocery, fast food, and other businesses because they can increase the product price, they are selling whereas we are unable to do so because we are locked into a price.

We are looking for equality throughout Medicaid where each agency is paid the same reimbursement rate across the board.