

Hello. My name is Steve Lorberbaum and I am the owner of Assisting Hands Home Care. Assisting Hands provide non-medical care in homes in Montgomery county to assist seniors that need companionship or assistance with activities of daily living. I would like to request an increase in the amount paid to companies providing Level 1 Care under the Respite Coordination Program administered by ARC of Montgomery County. The present reimbursement rate is \$26.00 per hour and I would request an increase to \$30 per hour. This is to reflect the significant caregiver shortage and increase in wages generally. This will help providers to offer a better wage to caregivers who provide this much needed service. This vital program gives family caregivers a much-needed break from the rigors of caregiving by being able to have professional caregivers assist with care for their loved one. The present market rate for these services is above the requested \$30 rate but represents a meaningful increase that will help retain high quality caregivers for our senior population. I thank you for your time and consideration.