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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bayada Nurses Advocates for the Protection of Consumer Choice
and Quality in Home Care**

April 23, 2009 — Philadelphia, PA — Bayada Nurses, a national leader in home care, held a press conference on the steps of the Capitol on Tuesday, April 21 to speak out against the Consumer Workforce Council (CWC). The CWC would create a state-run home care agency through an intergovernmental agreement, rather than by a legislative process. Bayada and many other organizations oppose the CWC because it duplicates the services and activities of existing providers while potentially cutting services or increasing the burden on taxpayers.

Bayada president and founder Mark Baiada spoke at the event, as did Reps. Mauree Gingrich (R-Lebanon), Doug Reichley (R-Parts of Berks and Lehigh), Scott Boyd (R-Lancaster), and the mother of a pediatric client. Concerned about quality care, consumer direction, and better jobs for home care workers, Baiada stated that “the Consumer Workforce Council is not the way to achieve these goals.” He cited problems created by a similar agency in California, which is now costing the state billions of dollars in fraud cases.

Rep. Gingrich has introduced a bill, HB 1165, to stop the CWC from being created without proper approval by the legislature. The bill would ensure that the Appropriations Committee would review the costs and public hearings would be held.

Although supporters of the CWC say that the council is needed so seniors and individuals with disabilities can remain at home, they already have the right and the ability to do so. In the current system, there are more than 750 home care providers in the state providing quality care to approximately 190,000 citizens in any given week.

The mother of a pediatric client shared that her daughter will need physical and mental therapy throughout her life and it is because of the quality care she receives from Bayada that she can go to work, “knowing that my daughter is in capable and caring hands when she is not at home.” With a typical registry, the burden of screening, insuring, and retaining quality caregivers is on the consumer.

“This event demonstrates that Bayada cares enough about our clients to come to Harrisburg to advocate for their needs,” said Anita Weinberg, director of statewide affairs. More than 80 employees from 37 offices gathered on the steps of the Capitol and met with legislators. “That is a really powerful message.”

Founded in 1975 by J. Mark Baiada, Bayada Nurses is an independently owned home health care agency that provides skilled, rehabilitative, therapeutic, and personal care services to children, adults, and seniors at home. Bayada Nurses employs over 12,000 nurses, home health aides, and therapists working from more than 140 offices in 18 states and one office in the United Kingdom.

For more information about Bayada Nurses, please call 888-422-9232 or visit our website at www.bayada.com.

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