

Home care workers vote for union-negotiated pact

About 25,000 home care workers voted overwhelmingly in favor of a contract negotiated by Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union. More than 98.5 percent ratified the contract with a state council that sets the terms of payment for the home care workers. Though they are hired individually by patients and family members, the workers are paid by MassHealth, the state Medicaid program. The contract includes a pay increase to \$12.48 an hour from \$10.84 over the next 2½ years and provides paid time off, based on hours worked. Healthcare benefits for the workers will be added in the second year of the contract. (Jeffrey Krasner)

