



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Plauché
American Association for Homecare
ashleyp@aahomecare.org

Governor Walz Proclaims “Home Medical Equipment & Services Appreciation” in Minnesota

Celebrating the Professionals who Make Home-Based Care Possible

[Minneapolis, MN] – When illness, injury, or a chronic condition strike, families often discover a lifeline: home medical equipment (HME). From wheelchairs, home oxygen therapy, and other medical supplies, HME allows people to manage their medical needs from the comfort of home.

Governor Walz has officially proclaimed the second week of November as Home Medical Equipment & Services Appreciation Week in Minnesota, recognizing the essential role of professionals who make it possible for people of all ages and medical conditions to receive care safely at home. This proclamation also coincides with Homecare Month and National Family Caregivers Month, highlighting the critical role of HME in the care continuum.

“With more than 160 accredited HME supplier locations serving Minnesotans, our Industry is a lifeline for people of all ages and medical conditions,” explains Rose Schafhauser, Executive Director of the Midwest Association for Medical Equipment Services & Supplies (MAMES). “We are proud to see the state of Minnesota lead the way in recognizing the value of HME professionals and the care they deliver every day.”

HME professionals do more than deliver products – they provide end users, families, and caregivers the tools, education, and support they need to thrive. The proclamation highlights the role of HME in:

- Reducing hospitalizations and health care costs
- Supporting families and caregivers
- Empowering individuals with complex medical needs to live at home
- Strengthening communities by keeping loved ones together

The proclamation honors the accredited suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, and service providers who work tirelessly to support those recovering from illness and injury as well as those living with disabilities and complex medical needs.

“By enabling care at home, HME benefits the entire state,” explains Ashley Plauché of the American Association for Homecare. “Home-based care is cost-effective for payers, taxpayers, and end users; eases the burdens on hospitals and long-term care facilities; and allows individuals to remain active in schools, workplaces, and communities.”

Minnesota is the first state in the nation to highlight the role of HME through a proclamation, celebrating the people and services that make home-based care possible every day.

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About:

The Midwest Association for Medical Equipment Services – MAMES is a regional association that represents home medical equipment (HME) providers, manufacturers and service representatives across the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

American Association for Homecare is a 501(c)6 national nonprofit association leading advocacy efforts on behalf of home medical equipment (HME) providers, manufacturers, and other stakeholders working to protect access to high quality medical products and home-based care for millions of Americans.
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