

## Senator Mensch Shows Support for Home Care

By Derek Nestler  
Correspondent

Pennsylvania State Senator Bob Mensch made a visit to local Summeytown resident Richard Price to show his support for in-home medical care on January 11. The purpose of the visit was to inform the state legislature of the importance and benefits of home care in this community.

Price is a 94-year-old resident of the Upper Perkiomen Valley who receives assistance from his good friend Chip Damiani and aides from Bayada Nurses. Price's enthusiasm about the help he receives from Bayada is evident as he states "I don't know where I'd be without Bayada Nurses".

Bayada Nurses is a nationwide company started in 1975 by J. Mark Baiada. Serving over 190,000 clients statewide, Bayada is committed to the core values of compassion, excellence and reliability, in addition to creating a cost-effective type of elder care.

"It's all about the quality of life and respecting the elderly," says Mensch, in addition to the fact that it is much more cost effective to keep these patients at home. The average annual cost of nursing home placement in Pennsylvania is \$62,640, while the average cost of a recipient of home and community-based services (HCBS) is \$20,148.

State policies in Pennsylvania support the more expensive option by allowing "presumptive

eligibility" for admission into nursing homes, whereas "individuals requesting care at home must wait up to 60 days for an eligibility determination," according to Bayada. This long waiting period forces individuals to opt for the only possible solution: more costly placement in nursing homes.

By witnessing the interactions between Price and his aides, it is obvious how much happier he is in his own home than he would be in a nursing home. Home care not only fills Mr. Price's desire to remain in his home, but it also reduces re-hospitalizations, which tend to weaken patients and make daily care more difficult.

Both Senator Mensch and Bayada Nurses support two vital solutions which would not only help elderly patients, but ease the stress on the state deficit and budget. By instituting presumptive eligibility for HCBS, people can stay in their homes and it would help rebalance the long-term care system.

With new presumptive eligibility, 10 percent of the current nursing home population can be shifted to HCBS, saving Pennsylvania over \$323 million a year.

Information on Bayada Nurses can be found by visiting [www.bayada.com](http://www.bayada.com) or by calling 215-721-7800. Contact Senator Bob Mensch and learn about his policies by visiting [www.senatormensch.com](http://www.senatormensch.com).

