

2023 AHCA/NCAL CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING - TALKING POINTS

WORKFORCE

- **Unfunded Staffing Mandate Proposal:** Ask your member of Congress to tell key decision makers (e.g., CMS and the Administration) that a nursing home staffing minimum requirement won't solve the long term care labor crisis and will only threaten access to critical long term care for our nation's seniors.
 - Nursing home workforce levels are at a nearly 30-year low.
 - The industry lost nearly 250,000 caregivers, or 15% of its workforce, during the pandemic.
 - While many other health care sectors have recovered, nursing homes still need 190,000 workers to return to pre-pandemic levels.
 - More than three-quarters are concerned their facility may have to close due to the staffing crisis, and 465 nursing homes have closed over the course of the pandemic - many due to staffing shortages.

- **CNA Lockout Bill:** Please ask your member of Congress to co-sponsor the Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act (S. 1749/H.R. 3227), which was introduced by Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) and Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) in the U.S. Senate and Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11) and Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS-4) in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill will help address the shortage of CNAs by ensuring that nurse aides have access to the quality training they need to provide care for residents. This bill will specifically allow nursing facilities to resume their in-house education programs if:
 - The facility has corrected the deficiency for which the CMP was assessed.
 - The deficiency for which the CMP was assessed did not result in an immediate risk to patient safety and is not the result of patient harm resulting from abuse or neglect.
 - The facility has not received a repeat deficiency related to direct patient harm in the preceding two-year period.

- **TNA Bill:** Please ask your member of Congress to co-sponsor the Building America's Health Care Workforce Act (H.R. 468), which was introduced by Reps. Brett Guthrie (R-KY-2) and Madeleine Dean (D-PA-4). This bill provides a reasonable grace period of 24 months to continue the emergency waivers after the end of the public health emergency to enable all temporary nurse aides who wish to, the ability to transition to long term roles (to accommodate training and testing capacities to meet demand).

- **Assisted Living:** NCAL strongly endorses the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act (S. 495/H.R. 1815). This bipartisan bill creates a commonsense approach to identifying and securing greater options and opportunities for our nation's veterans to access long term care supportive services.

21st CENTURY LONG-TERM CARE CAUCUS

- We are pleased that Representatives Bryan Steil (R-1-WI), Ann Kuster (D-2-NH) and Debbie Dingell (D-6-MI) are co-chairing the recently formed 21st Long-Term Care Caucus.
- The caucus provides opportunities for Members and their staff to attend events, programing, and briefings that direct attention to issues and solutions confronting the long term care sector.
- Ask your member of Congress to contact Representatives Bryan Steil, Ann Kuster or Debbie Dingell to join the 21st Century Long-Term Care Caucus.

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