

Elma Holder

Yukon, Oklahoma

Dear Friends,

It is a sad fact that the goal of securing quality care **for each resident** in nursing homes remains a long way from being achieved.

Yet, we made advances in my years at NCCNHR and today Consumer Voice continues our work to preserve the advances and to join with others to achieve true person-centered care.

There are many complementary approaches to achieving quality nursing home care. In the last few years, I have focused attention on the serious work of culture change. Still, we can all be proud that the foundation for culture change and nursing home transformation is contained in the basic tenets of the 1987 Nursing Home Reform Law - the unprecedented national law which we achieved together.

Now, we need to stay united in our advocacy. We continue to work to strengthen enforcement of each part of the law. But, no one can doubt that having a RN on duty around the clock in nursing homes is an indispensable component of quality care. In a nursing home, medical events don't happen on a 9-5 schedule, which is when most RNs are on duty.

I trust that you join me in supporting Rep. Schakowsky's bill, the *Put a Registered Nurse in the Nursing Home Act*. In 2009, Consumer Voice presented her *The Janet Wells Policy Award*, for she is one of the true Congressional champions for nursing home residents. **Let's all make an effort to support Rep. Schakowsky's bill, but let's also commit ourselves to send a financial contribution to Consumer Voice.** With its fine team of advocates, the organization needs your support now to bolster its crucial work.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Consumer Voice annual meeting in November. Thank you and, as always, good wishes.

Elma Holder