Dear Member of Congress:

As your constituent, I urge you to co-sponsor H.R. \_\_\_\_, the Put a Registered Nurse in the Nursing Home Act, and vote in support of the legislation should it be brought to the House floor for consideration. Currently, nursing homes participating in the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs are only required to have a registered nurse (RN) on-site for eight consecutive hours each day. H.R. \_\_\_\_ would require nursing homes receiving Medicare and/or Medicaid reimbursement to have a direct-care RN on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Over the past two decades, the medical intensity and complexity of care for nursing home residents has increased dramatically. Providing RN coverage for only 8 hours a day leaves the residents vulnerable, undermining effective prevention of complications and possibly delaying important interventions. Higher RN staffing levels are directly associated with decreases in preventable poor care outcomes and decreases in costly & unnecessary hospitalizations of nursing home residents.

By supporting continuous direct-care RN staffing, we will ensure that some of our most vulnerable Americans have the care they deserve in nursing homes.

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