

National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month 2014 Proclamation

Better Staffing: The Key to Better Care

Whereas, there are more than 1.5 million individuals living in 16,000 nursing homes; and 1 million individuals living in 50,000 board and care/assisted living facilities in the U.S.; and

Whereas, the federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guarantees residents their individual rights in order to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy; and

Whereas, all residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination; and

Whereas, we wish to honor and celebrate these citizens, to recognize their rich individuality, and to encourage residents and others to be educated about staffing and long-term care; and

Whereas, individuals and groups across the country will be celebrating Residents' Rights Month with the theme – Better Staffing: The Key to Better Care - to emphasize the importance of affirming these rights through facility practices, public policy and resident-centered decision-making.

Now, therefore, I, _____, Governor of the State of _____, do hereby proclaim October 2014 as **National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month**, in the State of _____, and encourage all citizens to join me in these important observances.

Signed this ____ day of _____ 2014

_____, Governor