



# THE VOICE

The e-newsletter of National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

June 5, 2018

## Now Accepting Nominations for the 2018 Leadership Awards

Are you looking for a way to recognize a long-term care consumer, long-term care ombudsman, family caregiver, citizen advocate, or another individual for their advocacy on behalf of long-term care consumers? We encourage you to nominate individuals you know that are dedicated to “quality now” and have made significant contributions to improving the lives of long-term care consumers.

Based on your nominations, the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) will recognize people who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to improving the lives of long-term care consumers.

Visit our [website](#) for additional information about the awards and nomination process.

There are 3 easy steps to submit a nomination!

1. Review the award categories and criteria.
2. Complete the nomination form via [SurveyMonkey](#).
3. Submit a letter of recommendation.

Individuals and organizations may nominate people for an award. Awards will be presented at our [42nd Annual Conference](#), October 22-24, 2018 in Alexandria, Virginia.

Nominations are due by Friday, July 6!

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**Reminder:** Now is the time to get the best possible deal on registration for the Consumer Voice Annual Conference. [Register](#) by July 31st to save up to \$55 on our early bird rate; [become a member](#) to access the special member rate; and check out our additional discounts for [groups](#) and individuals also attending the [National Aging and Law Conference](#).

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## ProPublica Updates Data and Online Tool Comparing Nursing Home Deficiencies and Penalties by State

ProPublica has published new data on deficiencies cited by regulators and the penalties imposed in the past three years on nursing homes. The online tool, Nursing Home Inspect, compares nursing homes by state and includes over 60,000 nursing home inspection reports. The data includes information about federal sanctions against nursing homes, including fines and payment suspensions.

Access the tool [here](#).

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## Attorneys General Condemn Federal Action to Rollback Protections for Nursing Home Residents

Last week, 17 Attorneys General submitted a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services condemning federal actions that would delay the enforcement of protections for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries who receive care in skilled nursing facilities. Leading the coalition was California Attorney General Xavier Becerra who held a press conference highlighting their concerns. The federal actions, including a memorandum to decrease the amounts of Civil Money Penalties imposed against a facility, and an 18-month moratorium on enforcement of certain requirements, in effect, weaken the 2016 CMS regulatory reforms that would improve the safety of nursing home residents by providing protections against abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The letter was sent in anticipation of the June rule-making period that will revisit requirements deemed to be burdensome for facilities. For more information, read the [press release](#) from the Office of

[Spotlight on Resources](#)

### Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, June 13:** [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Celebration: Leveraging National Resources to Build Strong Support for Older Adults](#), 4:00pm ET, Webinar from Elder Justice Initiative

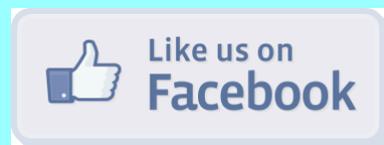
**Friday, June 15:** [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)

**Tuesday, June 26:** [Ending Nursing Home Violence Between Residents: Prevention, Intervention, and Advocacy](#), 3:00pm ET, NORC Webinar

**October:** Residents' Rights Month, [Speak Up: Know Your Rights and How to Use Them](#)

**October 22-24:** [Consumer Voice Annual Conference](#), Alexandria, Virginia

Join the conversation and follow us on social media!



**Last Week's Most Popular Post:**

**Thursday, May 31:**  
[AARP Public Policy Institute has published an article entitled "Off-label Antipsychotic](#)

the Attorney General. See [Consumer Voice's statement](#) on the Attorneys General action.

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## 2018 Residents' Rights Buttons Now Available



**SPEAK UP**  
**Know Your Rights**  
**And How To Use Them**  
National Consumer Voice For Quality Long-Term Care

Spread the message of Residents' Rights Month 2018 - Speak Up: Know Your Rights and How to Use Them - with buttons! Promote residents' rights and residents' right to speak up about their care. Perfect to give to volunteers, residents or other advocates! Buttons are available for purchase in packs of [20](#), [50](#) and [100](#).

Remember: Consumer Voice members receive 10% off of store purchases. Email [info@theconsumervoice.org](mailto:info@theconsumervoice.org) to inquire about your membership status and to receive the discount code.

Find more resources and information about Residents' Rights Month on our [website](#).

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## New Journal on Resident-to-Resident Incidents in Long-Term Care Homes Resulting in Deaths

[Use in Older Adults with Dementia: Not Just a Nursing Home Problem."](#)

follow us on  
**twitter**

### Last Week's Most Popular Tweet:

Wednesday, May 30:

[CA AG hosting press conference regarding new multistate effort to oppose Trump Administration's rollback of critical nursing home protections](#)

### Long-Term Care Resources & News

- [Tribal Nursing Home Best Practices](#), CMS, March 1, 2018

**DONATE NOW**

Read past issues of The Voice [here](#).

Support the Consumer Voice While You Shop Online

Eilon Caspi published a new journal titled, *The circumstances surrounding the death of 105 elders as a result of resident-to-resident incidents in dementia in long-term care homes*. Using publicly available information, patterns were identified pertaining to the circumstances surrounding the death of 105 elders as a result of resident-to-resident incidents. This is the first study in U.S. and Canada on these fatal incidents. The preliminary findings from this pilot exploratory study could inform long-term care homes and other stakeholders' efforts to prevent injurious and tragic incidents in similar circumstances. Read the abstract [here](#).

## **New Brief on Understanding and Working with Adult Protective Services**

This brief is part one of a three part resource developed by the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) in collaboration with the National Center on Elder Abuse. The goal of this resource is to provide information for understanding and collaborating with Adult Protective Services (APS) in order to benefit older adults and adults with disabilities who are subjected to abuse, neglect, or exploitation (ANE), including sexual violence. Read the brief [here](#).

## **U.S. House of Representatives Seniors Task Force Hold Nursing Home Briefing on Capitol Hill**

On Monday, June 4, the Seniors Task Force, co-chaired by Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9) and Doris Matsui (D-CA-6), hosted a briefing, "Protect Seniors Through Improving—Not Eroding--Nursing Home Quality Standards." Panelists included: (1) Janet Wells, Consultant, California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, (2) Richard Mollot, Executive Director, Long Term Care Community Coalition, (3) Toby Edelman, Senior Policy Attorney, Center for Medicare Advocacy, (4) Charlene Harrington, Ph.D., Professor, University of California- San Francisco, and (5) Robyn Grant, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care.

Panelists highlighted both positive changes in the revised federal nursing home regulations ensuring quality care for nursing home residents, as well as problems that continue to occur in nursing facilities. Many of the speakers discussed the lack of information available to consumers regarding the number and quality of staff available. Richard Mollot noted that while a federal study indicated that the average resident needs 4.1 hours of direct care to meet their basic clinical needs, 82% of nursing



homes report total direct care staffing at 4.0 hours per resident per day or less and 30% of nursing homes report total direct care staffing of 3.0 hours per day per resident or less. Our very own Robyn Grant outlined policy solutions and encouraged advocates to ask Congress to pass federal minimum staffing standards for Medicare and Medicaid-funded nursing facilities. In addition to establishing new standards, panelists also highlighted the importance of adequate enforcement of current standards and the need for greater accountability from nursing homes.

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## Spotlight on Resources

The Consumer Voice and the National Ombudsman Resource Center (NORC) have a multitude of resources available online covering a wide range of long-term care topics. Visit the [Consumer Voice website](#) and the [NORC website](#) to explore all the available resources. Take a look at this week's highlighted resource:

[NORC Notes: Elder Mistreatment and Responding to Allegations of Abuse](#) - NORC Notes is a monthly email reminder of available resources on the NORC website and tips for how ombudsman programs can use them. If you are a Long-Term Care Ombudsman Representative and would like to sign-up to receive the NORC Notes, email [ombudcenter@theconsumervoice.org](mailto:ombudcenter@theconsumervoice.org).

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## About The Voice

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Consumer Voice is the leading national voice representing consumers in issues related to long-term care, helping to ensure that consumers are empowered to advocate for themselves. We are a primary source of information and tools for consumers, families, caregivers, advocates and ombudsmen to help ensure quality care for the individual. Consumer Voice's mission is to represent consumers at the national level for quality long-term care, services and supports.

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