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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSUMER VOICE CALLS FOR NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC, July 31, 2013 – In response to the airing of Frontline’s documentary, “Life and Death in Assisted Living,” the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) is calling for federal regulations for assisted living facilities and strong oversight.

“The problems highlighted on Frontline reflect those that we hear frequently from consumers and advocates around the country,” said Robyn Grant, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy. “Our concern is that the issues presented in the show are only the tip of the iceberg.”

Consumer Voice notes that other problems include inadequate care of residents, lack of supervision and monitoring of residents, insufficient qualifications and training for administrators, lack of criminal background checks (or failure to conduct them), abuse, neglect, and more. In addition, the regulations in every state are different, and consumers in some states have little to no protections.

According to the Consumer Voice, when assisted living first started, it was argued that regulations and government oversight were not needed because market forces and consumer choice would be enough to ensure that good care was provided. “Clearly this approach is not working. There needs to be a national call to action. How bad does it have to get before we protect residents from harm? How many more frail, vulnerable older adults have to die?” said Grant.

About the Consumer Voice

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care was formed as the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform in 1975 because of public concern about substandard care in nursing homes. Today, the Consumer Voice is the leading national voice representing consumers on issues related to long-term care, helping to ensure that consumers are empowered to advocate for themselves.

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (formerly NCCNHR) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit membership organization founded in 1975 by Elma L. Holder that advocates for quality care and quality of life for consumers in all long-term-care settings.