Washington Journal invited Alice H. Hedt, NCCNHR Executive Director, to appear on May 3rd’s program after reviewing her testimony on May 2, 2007 before the Senate Special Committee on Aging. The 30 minute interview covered a range of long-term care issues, and included questions and comments from consumers across the United States.

Caller #1: Carson City, NV
- Wife calling – her husband was recently in a nursing home
- Addressed: Quality of care & life issues regarding cleanliness of resident’s room & bathroom
- Noted 17 residents per nurse aide

Caller #2: New Jersey
- Caller wanted to know about asset protection; paying for nursing home care

Caller #3: Baton Rouge, LA
- Caller was previously the Director of Nursing (DON) for a nursing home
- Noted that homes continually staff at minimum levels
- Noted the predictability of inspections and how homes staff up to look good for inspectors
- Said facilities are focus on the bottom line rather than quality of care

Caller #4: Pittsburg, OH (Dayton area)
- Caller was Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)
- Noted patient ratios are generally 1:12+ and sometimes she has cared for up to 27 residents at a time
- Homes consistently staff at the lowest possible
- Noted pressure sore care is difficult with this level of staffing (mentioned sores the size of golf balls)
- Noted she has seen patients restrained for up to 8 hours at a time
- Stressed the importance of visitors & the need to look out for residents who can’t speak for themselves about their care

Caller #5: Alabama
- Caller was a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)
- Noted staffing is the biggest problem
- Said it is very important that families check in on their loved ones in nursing homes
- Went to court regarding witness to abuse of Alzheimer’s patient
- Works at a restraint-free facility
- Noted she has had nights where she served 40 residents by herself

Caller #6: Brooklyn, NY
- Caller stated that this is a moral issue and people should take care of their own loved ones
• Noted that the answer might be federalization of nursing homes – homes run by the federal government

Caller #7: Charlotte, NC
• Caller noted that we are seeing a corporate takeover of nursing home care
• Stressed the need to address the ability of people to keep their loved ones at home
• Wanted to know if there was any federal legislation to allow people to care for their loved ones at home by offering financial compensation or concessions

Caller #8: Minnesota
• Caller had been both a certified nurse assistant and a Nursing Home Inspector
• Noted that there is a tax revenue element to this issue; in addition to corporate structure we are dealing with money that goes into coffers & people are reluctant to close homes and/or make recommendations for changes
• Noted that one shouldn’t look to community based services to solve the problem – there are lots of problems with this set up, also