Nursing Home Staffing Campaign

TALKING POINTS

THE “ASK”

Please support increasing staffing levels in nursing homes to 4.1 hours per resident every day.

THE AUDIENCE

*Residents, Families, Members of the Public

• Every day across the country there are nursing home residents who are not receiving the care they need because there are too few nurses and certified nursing assistants to assist them.
• Studies have shown that 4.1 hours/resident each day is the minimum amount of care needed to prevent common quality of care problems like pressure ulcers, dehydration, and losing the ability to carry out daily tasks like eating, dressing, and walking.
• Current federal regulations require “sufficient” staffing to meet the needs of residents. “Sufficient” is not defined. Instead each nursing home can decide for itself how many certified nursing assistants and nurses to assign.
• Even the best staff can’t provide quality care if there aren’t enough of them. You can help. Join the Consumer Voice Staffing Campaign and contact your members of Congress to urge them to strengthen nursing home staffing laws.
• Please make sure your voice is heard. Your loved ones deserve it.

*Legislators

• Over 100 studies, articles and government documents have identified a critical relationship between nurse and nursing assistant staffing levels and outcomes of care in nursing homes.
• Research has determined that 4.1 hours is the minimum amount of care needed to prevent common quality of care problems like pressure ulcers,
dehydration, and losing the ability to carry out daily tasks like eating, dressing and walking.

- Current federal law is vague, requiring only “sufficient staff to provide nursing services to attain or maintain the highest levels of physical, mental and psychosocial well-being of residents.” State laws vary widely, with some states having no minimum staffing laws.
- Increased standards would improve lives of residents, families and overworked staff.
- Supporting minimum staffing standards is also cost-effective: when outcomes improve, resident health improves, and nursing homes and the government spend less money.
- Please protect residents by requiring nursing homes to provide at least 4.1 hours of nursing care per resident every day. Our nation’s most vulnerable can wait no longer.