

Talking Points to Use During Visits with Your Member of Congress

Tell your member of congress to support the implementation of staffing standards and hold facilities accountable for the care they provide and money they receive.

Share your own personal story if you have one.

Use these talking points:

1. There's no federal regulation requiring a minimum staffing level – the regulations only require “sufficient staff” – leaving facilities to decide what is sufficient.
2. Residents are harmed when staffing levels are inadequate.
 - a. They lose weight when there isn't enough staff to feed them,
 - b. They fall getting out of bed when call bells go unanswered,
 - c. They get pressure ulcers when no one is there to help them move,
 - d. They become incontinent when no one assists them with toileting.
3. It is well-documented in research studies that high staffing levels are associated with better resident outcomes including increased functional ability, decreased pressure ulcers, and decreased weight loss.
4. There are people who want to work, just not in nursing homes. Low wages, lack of training, and unreasonable patient assignments lead to poor working conditions and make it difficult to keep and attract staff. Support proposals to improve conditions for workers.
5. Long term care providers receive billions of taxpayer dollars each year. During the pandemic they received an extra \$21 billion, much of it with few to no strings attached. Require better transparency and accountability for how they spend the money they receive.