

October 13, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

The undersigned organizations urge you to ensure that important protections for nursing home residents are included in the Budget Reconciliation bill being considered by the House of Representatives. Considering the great tragedy that befell nursing home residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, now more than ever we must address the long-standing issues in facilities that have been barriers to the provision of quality care.

The Budget Reconciliation bill, as passed out of the Budget Committee, currently includes provisions that, if passed, would make a significant difference in the lives of nursing home residents. These provisions<sup>1</sup> (Title XIII, Subtitle E, Part 3, Secs. 134301-134304) address funding that improves the accuracy and reliability of certain skilled nursing facility data; ensures accurate information on Medicare cost reports; provides necessary funds to improve the survey and oversight process; and addresses insufficient staffing by providing a necessary path towards achieving minimum staffing standards. Research shows that the presence of sufficient staff lowers infections, leads to better outcomes and fewer deaths for residents.

More than 186,000<sup>2</sup> residents and staff in long-term care facilities died of COVID-19. We must take action now to protect and support those living and working in long-term care facilities and prevent such a tragedy from recurring in the future. These provisions in the Budget Reconciliation bill are a critical step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

AARP  
American Association for Justice  
American Association on Health and Disability  
Caregiver Action Network  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
Essential Caregivers Coalition  
Human Rights Watch  
Long Term Care Community Coalition  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

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<sup>1</sup> These provisions are included in the Nursing Home Improvement and Accountability Act (H.R. 5169; S.2694)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aarp.org/ppi/issues/caregiving/info-2020/nursing-home-covid-dashboard.html>

National Association of Local Long Term Care Ombudsman (NALLTCO)  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Association of State Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs  
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care  
Public Citizen

### **State Organizations**

Angel Long Term Care Advocacy, Indiana  
Arise, New York  
Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents  
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR)  
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE), Pennsylvania  
Center for Elder Law & Justice, New York  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY  
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia  
Dignity Alliance, Massachusetts  
Disability Policy Consortium, Massachusetts  
Elder Justice Committee of Metro Justice, New York  
Elder Law Solutions  
Family Advocate Care Experience (FACE) NJ  
Family Council, Waterview Pines Nursing Home, Minnesota  
Friends of Residents in Long Term Care, North Carolina  
Gray Panthers, New York  
Greater Boston Chapter of United Spinal Association  
Idaho Caregiver Alliance  
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Idaho State Independent Living Council  
Intermountain Fair Housing Council, Inc., Idaho  
Justice and Change for Victims of Nursing Facilities, Virginia  
Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues  
Kansas Advocates for Better Care  
Keswick Family Council, Maryland  
Lakeshore Foundation, Alabama  
Law Firm of D.F. Truhowsky, New York  
Levin & Perconti, Illinois  
Living Independence Network Corporation, Idaho  
Long Term Care Ombudsman, SOWEGA COA, Georgia  
Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, O3A, Washington  
Lower Savannah Regional LTC Ombudsman Program  
Massachusetts Advocates for Nursing Home Reform  
Massachusetts Long Term Care Ombudsman Program  
Michigan Elder Justice Initiative  
Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program  
Montgomery County MD LTC Ombudsman  
NC Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program  
The New York State Veterans Home at Montrose Family Council

New York StateWide Senior Action Council  
NJ Long Term Care Ombudsman's Office  
Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency of the Bluegrass, Kentucky  
Nursing Home Victim Coalition, Inc, Texas  
Office of the RI State Long Term Care Ombudsman  
Ohio Office of the State LTC Ombudsman  
Oklahoma Silver Haired Legislature  
Our Mother's Voice, South Carolina  
Rivera & Shackelford, P.C., California  
Sisters of St. Joseph, New York  
South Carolina-Caregivers for Compromise  
State Long-term Care Ombudsman Program of West Virginia  
Texas Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman  
Vermont LTC Ombudsman Project  
Voice for Seniors, New York