

Extra News Online

New Group Decries Cuts To Long Term Care

A new coalition launched in June will advocate for community businesses and organizations that support the long term care industry by providing vital services directly and tangentially to the care of the nation's elderly.

CoCares will raise awareness about how cuts in Medicare or Medicaid funding not only compromise patient care and effective programs for nursing facilities but also directly and indirectly diminish sustainable jobs and economic vitality in states and communities.

In so doing, CoCares is opposed "to

any loss of federal funding that could threaten the viability of local economies often dependent on long term care facilities that serve as core contributors to business communities."

"My company serves over 300 long term care facilities throughout the state of California, and we understand, first hand, the federal funding challenges faced by providers and caregivers that take care of our elderly through all levels of care," said Tiffany Karlin, chief executive officer of Accurate Business Results, a health care consulting firm based in Long Beach, Calif., and a

CoCares member.

Nationwide, the long term care industry provides almost 2 million jobs, and employers anticipate filling more vacancies that will further stimulate local economies, CoCares says. "Preserving and strengthening Medicare and Medicaid is the key toward ensuring that patients receive high-quality nursing home care or care in assisted living settings," the coalition said.

More information about CoCares can be found at its Web site: www.mycocares.org.

—Meg LaPorte