

# CARE FOR OUR SENIORS ACT

## *Improving America's Nursing Homes By Learning From Tragedy & Implementing Bold Solutions For The Future*

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated long-standing challenges impacting the long term care profession. The American Health Care Association (AHCA) and LeadingAge are dedicated to learning from this experience, renewing our commitment to our seniors, and offering solutions that will improve the quality of care in our nation's nursing homes.

### STEPS TO STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S NURSING HOMES

We are advocating for meaningful action now to protect seniors and prepare for a growing elderly population that deserves a robust, quality long term care system. We have prioritized four principles for nursing homes that can be applied to support better pandemic management, help prevent such devastation from happening again, and strengthen nursing home care.



#### CLINICAL: Enhance Quality of Care

Enhanced Infection Preventionist

24-Hour Registered Nurse Requirement

30-Day Minimum Supply of Personal Protective Equipment



#### WORKFORCE: Strengthen and Support our Frontline Caregivers

Recruit & Retain More Long Term Caregivers



#### OVERSIGHT: Improve Systems to be More Resident-Driven

Improve the Survey Process for Better Resident Care

5-Step Plan to Turn Around Chronic Poor Performing Facilities

Publicly Report Customer Satisfaction



#### STRUCTURAL: Modernize for Resident Dignity & Safety

Study a Shift to Private Rooms

### IMPROVING LONG TERM CARE WILL TAKE INVESTMENT

Real, long-lasting transformation requires a considerable investment in the long term care profession. For too long, nursing homes have faced chronic Medicaid underfunding and unfunded government mandates, leaving many unable to afford enhancements in their care delivery, workforce, and infrastructure. COVID-19 has exacerbated these challenges. Providers stand ready to make meaningful change, but it won't be possible without a commitment from policymakers to provide the necessary and consistent financial support. We have developed four interrelated, investment strategies that will help ensure a robust and quality long term care system.

- 1 Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (EFMAP):** Increased federal Medicaid funds are provided to states to pay for the mandatory nursing facility benefit, with requirements that additional federal funds be used for nursing facility rates.
- 2 Federal Framework for "Allowable Cost" or "Reasonable Cost":** Establish federal guidelines for state allowable cost definitions.
- 3 Medicaid Rate Adequacy Requirement:** Medicaid rates are brought up to equal the cost of care and subsequently updated regularly to keep pace with increases in costs of care.
- 4 State Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Committee & Required Design Report:** The state will be required to form and maintain a state, health plan, and nursing facility VBP committee with specific guidelines and deadlines to submit reports. This offers the potential for additional resources.