ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

- SNF Proposed Rule CMS should phase in the parity rate reduction over 3 years (e.g., 1.5% per year) and CMS should work with the sector to ensure the annual Market Basket update adequately accounts for labor cost increases.

WORKFORCE

- Long term care is experiencing the worst job loss in the health care sector, facing a 15-year labor low and losing more than 400,000 caregivers since the start of the pandemic.

- TNA Bill: Please ask your member of Congress to co-sponsor the Building America’s Health Care Workforce Act (H.R. 7744), which was recently introduced by Reps. Brett Guthrie (R-2-KY), Madeleine Dean (D-4-PA), and David McKinley (R-1-WV). H.R. 7744 provides a reasonable grace period of 24 months to continue the emergency waivers after the public health emergency ends to enable all temporary nurse aides who wish to, the ability to transition to long-term roles (to accommodate training and testing capacities to meet demand).

- Unfunded Staffing Mandate Proposal: While we understand the intent of the CMS proposal of establishing mandatory minimum staffing levels at SNFs – we are concerned that facilities will not be able to meet the mandate without an increased supply of caregivers and sustained funding. We are asking members of Congress to write or call CMS to share these concerns by the CMS comment deadline of June 10.

Assisted Living

- NCAL strongly supports the very bipartisan Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S. 1024/H.R. 2255), which recaptures unused visas from previous fiscal years for doctors, nurses, and their families. It allows the entry of nurses with approved immigrant visas and allows physicians with approved immigrant petitions to adjust their status, so that they can help our nation continue to fight COVID-19 and have a durable immigration status.

- NCAL also endorses the recently introduced bipartisan Building America’s Health Care Workforce Act (H.R. 7744), mentioned above.

21st CENTURY LONG-TERM CARE CAUCUS

- We are pleased that Representatives Bryan Steil (R-1-WI) and Ann Kuster (D-2-NH) have agreed to co-chair the newly formed 21st Long-Term Care Caucus.

- The caucus will provide opportunities for Members and their staff to attend events, programing, and briefings that direct attention to issues and solutions confronting the long-term care sector.

- Ask your member of Congress to contact Representatives Bryan Steil or Ann Kuster to join the 21st Century Long-Term Care Caucus.