

Protecting Access to Long Term Care: Medicaid Funding & Workforce Development

Medicaid is the backbone of long term care. Medicaid cuts would be devastating to seniors and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and those who care for them. Medicaid covers long term services and supports (LTSS) to help individuals with basic activities of daily living, like bathing, dressing, and walking. **Tell Congress to protect Medicaid and stand up for seniors and individuals with disabilities.**

Who Relies on Medicaid for Care?

2/3

63% of Nursing Home Residents

1 in 5

Assisted Living Residents

Nearly all

55,000

ID/DD residing in intermediate care facilities

Provider assessments are a legitimate tool states use to bridge the funding gap. Medicaid currently fails to cover the actual cost of nursing home care, at an average of 82 cents for every dollar. Congress established provider taxes or assessments decades ago that nearly every state uses to help sustain Medicaid funding and ensure access to care.

The Impact of Further Restrictions on Provider Taxes

- Exacerbating Medicaid funding shortfalls without offering an alternative solution.
- Closing more nursing homes and long term care (LTC) communities, jeopardizing access to care for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other at-risk populations.
- Worsening workforce shortages by reducing resources available for staff recruitment and retention.

Long term care continues to face a growing workforce crisis as our nation grows older and demand for care is rising.

Certified nursing assistants (CNAs) provide essential daily care to millions of frail and elderly Americans in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). The current shortage of CNAs, however, threatens the ability of SNFs to continue to provide access to high-quality care. The bipartisan and bicameral bill from the 118th Congress, S. 1749/H.R. 8244, or the Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act, will help address the shortage by expanding opportunities for SNFs to offer in-house education programs and ensuring that nurse aides have access to the quality training they need. **Ask Congress to support the common-sense Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act to accelerate the development and training of CNAs.**

AHCA/NCAL Congressional Briefing Solutions

1. Protect seniors and individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities on Medicaid through preserved funding.
2. No further cuts or adjustments to states' rights to use provider assessments.
3. Advance the Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act (CNA Lockout Bill - S. 1749/H.R. 8244 from 118th Congress).

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