



August 9, 2021

Lori Gutierrez

Deputy Director

Office of Policy

625 Forster Street , Room 814

Health & Welfare Building

Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Deputy Director:

I am writing today to urge you to increase Pennsylvania's Nursing Home Nursing staffing ratio to 4.1 hours. In reading over the proposed new revisions, I am happy to see this.

A lot of the discussion is how to attain this. I question where the median hourly rate for a certified nursing assistance documented as \$22.91 came from. I do not know of any certified nursing assistance earning this. Usually, they start at minimum wage. A lot of the certified nursing assistance do not have benefits because they work full time.

There was also concern that more money would need to be spent on training the certified nursing assistance. The turn over now is very high. If they were given a higher wage, and benefits they just might stay in the industry. The title Nursing Staff Assistant is not one I am familiar with. There are Certified Nursing Assistants, LPN's RN's RNAC's, ADON and Directors of Nursing usually in the nursing home industry in Pa.

Resident's quality of care and quality of life come before everything else. As has been studied for years, lower staffing results in poorer care.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Dreffebach