



8/30/2021

Department of Health  
625 Forster Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Attn: Lori Gutierrez, Deputy Director  
Office of Policy

Re: Rulemaking 10-221 (Long-Term Care Facilities, Proposed Rulemaking 1)

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter of comment on the recently proposed rule, "Department of Health, Title 28. Health and Safety, Part IV. Health Facilities, Subpart C. Long Term Care Facilities, 28 Pa. Code §§201.1-201.3: 211.12(i), Long Term Care Nursing Facilities".

This letter is being sent on behalf of the residents we serve and the direct care staff who work at Saber Healthcare Group. As the Regional Vice President of Operations, I oversee 13 nursing homes operating across the Commonwealth. Collectively, these facilities are licensed for 1707 beds, employ 2400 employees and serve 1460 residents. Our organization is committed to providing high quality care and prioritizing the needs of the residents we serve each and every day.

After reviewing your proposed regulation, we have concerns regarding the mandatory increase of the minimum number of hours of general nursing care from 2.7 to 4.1 hours for each resident, which excludes other direct care provided by essential caregivers.

As it stands right now, it is a challenge to achieve the 2.7 hands on PPD and we are talking about exceeding that exponentially with no real plan in place to accomplish it. I can say, in all honesty, staffing is far and away the #1 issue that I am working with our teams with. We have countless conversations strategizing, adjusting, and executing plans that are community specific to try to generate more staff for buildings.

Having a 4.1 staffing requirement go through, while not adjusting who is allowed to be counted in that requirement, is not realistic whatsoever. We should consider all of the people that help out on a daily basis and add them in as well (therapists, Activity Directors, etc etc)

I fear that adding this requirement will make an already difficult job impossible for many of our leaders and the way we see it from our seat, Harrisburg doesn't care. Harrisburg doesn't care if we lose leaders in this sector who are some of the most important people in the entire commonwealth.

Thank you for your time in reviewing and considering our comments. We are hopeful that the Department of Health will address our concerns and work with providers and staff to ensure continued access to long-term care services in Pennsylvania. We are hopeful that the Department of Health will amend the provisions contained in §211.12(i) in a manner that will address the concerns raised in our comments.

Sincerely,

Cody Meenan, NHA, RVPO