



From: [Irrchelp](#)
To: [Michelle Elliott](#); [DH, LTCRegs](#)
Cc: [Fiona Cormack](#)
Subject: [External] FW: Increase minimum staffing levels at PA nursing homes!
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 1:39:44 PM

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#3312

From: Nicole Overmoyer <nicoleovermoyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Irrchelp <irrhelp@irrc.state.pa.us>
Subject: Increase minimum staffing levels at PA nursing homes!

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I write in support of the proposal to increase minimum staffing levels at Pennsylvania nursing homes from 2.7 to 4.1 hours per day, per resident.

I write as the daughter of a resident of a nursing home in northwest Pennsylvania. This home was recently sold, because Medicaid payments made based on the income rate of the neighborhood are so low that the original owners, of 148 years, could no longer keep up. That is shameful.

More than that, while visiting my parent, I have seen the staff, many of them going above and beyond in their caring and attention, frustrated and tired and teetering on the edge of quitting because they don't feel like they have the time to give the residents the attention they need. The attention they deserve.

There are 50 residents on my parent's floor - two nurses on second shift and, on a good night, four aides to cover the rooms. Too often it's three aides or two, and someone is pulled from another place in the facility. Because of these ratios, I have heard my parent and other residents be told "I'm sorry, you have to wait" when asking for help to the bathroom, help picking something up off the floor, help with their dinner... This is especially true for residents requiring two-person assists for things like the bathroom, or aides who for understandable safety reasons opt to have a spotter.

Our parents and grandparents should not be told to soil themselves, and left to sit for hours in that, because Pennsylvania is decades behind in distributing Medicaid money and adjusting to the growing needs of our most vulnerable population.

Pathetic staffing requirements at Pennsylvania nursing homes is dangerous and it is also a source of humiliation, degradation, disrespect, and total disregard for the needs of the people living in them... many of whom would rather be literally anywhere else. But through no fault of their own, they are at the mercy of the system.

And the system as it stands does not care for them.

Please increase minimum staffing levels at Pennsylvania nursing homes.

Thank you,

Nicole Overmoyer