

## Form Letter D #1-3



Dear Pennsylvania Department of Health,

I am writing to express my support for lifting Pennsylvania's Safe Staffing Standard to 4.1 hours per resident per day for nursing homes, as proposed by the PA Department of Health on July 21st, 2021 (<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F3rZrckX&data=05%7C01%7Cra-dhltcregs%40pa.gov%7C00cb5986febe4dbb006d08da97e9b9de%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637992042974382670%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mZoQ8YCFUmRXWSm0A3tYxtM6n%2BCXFOPXT9CezFydWoY%3D&reserved=0>).

For decades, our long-term care system has faced dwindling staffing, lower care standards, and cases of fraud, abuse, and neglect. The result is a broken system that does not prioritize residents or caregivers, and led to Pennsylvania having one of the highest COVID nursing home death rates in the entire country.

These failures must be addressed. Updating Pennsylvania's archaic nursing home regulations, including the staffing standard, is an essential part of the reform we need.

Under the current regulations, residents are only required to receive 2.7 hours of care per day. For years, we have been calling for a new safe staffing standard lifting that requirement to 4.1 hours, which is the minimum standard recommended by elder care experts. The proposed regulation would transform our nursing home system and protect residents and those who care for them.

I urge you to do everything in your power to support the Governor's nursing home regulation reform.

Sincerely,