



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

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You may remember that in the January 2023 PARCR Post, which was released in December 2022, the Legislative section discussed the Pennsylvania Department of Health revisions of the Commonwealth's long-term care nursing facility regulations. The report included package four which relates to nursing to patient ratios. Through negotiations with the Department of Health, LeadingAge PA was able to mitigate the originally proposed 4.1 Nursing Hours Per Patient Day (NHPPD) and associated ratios. These were **state** revisions. Now there is further concern because CMS, a **federal** agency, is planning a change. If you wish to participate in expressing concerns you may have about the proposed increased staffing rule to CMS, I have provided the following information and an opportunity from LeadingAge. Control click on the "Take Action here" link below, make any revision in the provided document and send.

Additionally, there is information about a bill proposed by U.S. Representatives regarding the temporary nursing assistant (TNA) waiver.

Take Action! Oppose federal minimum staffing standards without proper financing and workforce investment

CMS is planning to issue a proposed rule to establish national minimum staffing levels for nursing homes. In PA, imposition of a federal requirement could undo the work that was done in 2022 by LeadingAge PA to mitigate the 4.1 Nursing Hours Per Patient Day (NHPPD) staffing minimums proposed by the PA Dept. of Health. Please join us in taking action by sending an email and sharing your community's perspective to CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure expressing your opposition of a staffing ratios mandate without the necessary workforce investments and reimbursement levels. [Take Action here!](#)

TNA waiver bill re-introduced in U.S. House of Representatives

On Jan. 24, U.S. Representatives Brett Guthrie (KY-02) and Madeleine Dean (PA-04) led the reintroduction of the *Building America's Health Care Workforce Act* with 19 of their bipartisan colleagues. This bill would extend the temporary nursing assistant (TNA) waiver flexibilities for 24 months following the end of the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE). Although we anticipate the PHE to end in the next few months, the demand for staffing will continue long after that. If enacted, this bill would allow TNAs to continue in their current roles and put their on-the-job experience and training toward the 75-hour CNA training requirement. It would maintain patient safety protections by requiring competency evaluations that assess TNAs on a variety of factors, including interpersonal skills, performing basic nursing skills, personal care skills, and mental health and social service needs. It would also allow continuity of care for nursing home residents so they can retain their direct caregivers who have been by their side throughout the pandemic. The bill text can be [found here](#). LeadingAge PA will be launching a call to action once the bill is officially assigned a number.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or wish to discuss the information.

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