

Protect Access and Safety in Minnesota's Long-Term Care Settings

In the 2025 Legislative Session, The Long-Term Care Imperative urges legislators to help ensure seniors and their families can find reliable care in their home communities by opposing changes to the Value-Based Reimbursement system, abolishing the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board, and supporting common sense regulatory changes that improve seniors' safety and quality of care.

SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES/NURSING HOMES

TAKE ACTION

Oppose the dismantling of the Value-Based Reimbursement (VBR) system for long-term care.

- Since its bi-partisan adoption in 2015, VBR has significantly improved caregiver wages and helps providers adapt to changes in the costs of care.
- Governor Walz's proposed 2025 budget threatens the status of VBR. Across all relevant funds, the Governor's budget would cut an estimated \$700,000,000 in funding for nursing homes over four years.

TAKE ACTION

Support HF500/SF1531 to repeal the MN Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board (NHWSB) and fund the impacts of its ill-advised regulations.

The unelected, nine-member board (NHWSB) imposed two mandates that will burden Minnesota nursing homes with almost \$200 million in costs over the next four years – without offering any financial support to cover them:

- The first mandate requires 150% pay for eleven holidays, which will cost nursing homes an estimated \$25,000 each, annually. Across all nursing homes, this amounts to \$20 million over the next four years.
- The second mandate established a minimum wage for nursing home caregivers that will cost Minnesota nursing homes \$175 million over the next four years.

BY THE NUMBERS

GOVERNOR WALZ'S
PROPOSED BUDGET



\$200,000,000
in unfunded NHWSB mandates



\$700,000,000
in nursing home cuts



\$900,000,000
funding gap over the
next four years

Minnesota is woefully unprepared to meet the growing demand for senior care services.

1 in 4 Minnesotans will be over the age of 65 by 2030, yet 1 in 3 nursing home beds in Greater Minnesota have disappeared in the last 20 years.¹

ASSISTED LIVING, HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

TAKE ACTION

Support HF2064/SF2055 to protect seniors from unsafe environments.

- Over 50% of long-term care providers have considered initiating a contract termination with a resident due to the risk of harm to other residents or staff.
- Of the 1,800 residents in assisted living communities that met the criteria for contract termination, it was pursued in fewer than 25% of cases due to legal and regulatory barriers.
- A quarter of assisted living providers have lost staff due to challenging residents in their settings.

TAKE ACTION

Support SF2537 to enable LPNs to practice the full scope of their work in all of long-term care, just as they are able to in other areas of healthcare.

- Due to legal and regulatory inconsistencies, Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) are unable to practice up to the full scope of their training in assisted living facilities.
- This actively prevents seniors from receiving a higher standard of care from their caregivers. LPNs can already practice the full scope of their work in other areas of healthcare. Extending this ability to assisted living settings will help address caregiver shortages.

BY THE NUMBERS²



About 3% of assisted living residents are considered challenging enough to warrant being **discharged** to protect other residents and staff.



1 in 4 assisted living providers have **lost staff** due to challenging residents.



Assisted living providers that have **lost staff** report losing an average of almost 4 employees due to challenging residents.

CONTACT

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¹ Asche, Kelly. "The Declining Capacity of Nursing Facility Care in Rural Minnesota." ruralmn.org, November 10, 2024.

² The Long-Term Care Imperative - "Assisted Living Member Survey," November 2024.