



NCCNHR Advocacy Efforts Move Forward To Pass Nursing Home Transparency Law

Crunch time is here! House and Senate members return from the July 4 recess next week to begin writing their final health care reform bills. Nursing home transparency and improvement provisions are in both working drafts--quite an accomplishment for our network--but we can't count on them staying there. Please join NCCNHR at this crucial time in trying to pass the first major nursing home reform bill since 1987!

Here Is What You Can Do to Help. . .

Call Your House and Senate Members

Use the congressional switchboard number -- **202/224-3121** -- to call their offices. When you reach your member's office, tell the person who answers:

"I am a constituent. I would like to ask Senator ____/Rep. ____ to support the nursing home transparency and improvement provisions that are in the House and Senate health care reform discussion bills. These are no-cost provisions that would increase the transparency of nursing home ownership and give American families better information about the quality of nursing homes before they put their loved ones there. Nursing homes in our state badly need these improvements in the law."

Ask your colleagues, friends and family to also make calls!

Send an E-mail

Put the message above in an e-mail and send it to your members' offices. To get contact information about House members, click on http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml. For Senators, click on http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Copy This Letter to the Editor, Sign It, and Send It to Your Newspaper

Dear Editor:

Congress hasn't passed legislation to improve nursing home care since 1987. It has a chance to now in health care reform.

There have been a lot of changes in the nursing home industry in two decades--not all of them good. Several large chains have been bought out by global private equity investors; in fact, a majority of nursing homes are owned by for-profit corporations. The way these companies structure themselves, even our state health regulators can't tell who owns them sometimes, especially when the owners are out-of-state. This can create a dangerous situation for the residents, because no one is truly accountable for what happens to them.

The Nursing Home Transparency and Improvement Act is part of the draft health care reform bills that the House and Senate are considering. It would make nursing homes disclose their owners and operators. It would also give families a lot more information about the nursing homes they put their loved ones in, including whether they have adequate staff. It would help the federal government get better oversight over these multi-state chains.

I want to urge Senator _____ and Senator _____ and Representative _____ to support nursing home transparency and improvement in health care reform. The elderly and people with disabilities in our state deserve nursing homes that are transparent and accountable, and families need information to make good choices when they choose a nursing home for someone.

Sincerely,