

Nurses Belong in Nursing Homes Act

Senators Wyden, Kim, Booker, Warren, Luján, Murphy, and Blumenthal

Over [1.2 million](#) Americans and their families depend on nursing homes for health care and supportive services. Chronic understaffing continues to threaten residents' safety and strain an already underpaid workforce. To address this crisis, the Biden administration finalized overdue federal minimum staffing standards, requiring a registered nurse (RN) on-site 24/7 to provide residents with no less than 3.5 hours of care per day. Based on decades of research and supported by residents, families, and workers, these standards would have saved [13,000](#) lives per year.

The Trump administration dismantled those protections, delaying and ultimately rolling back the staffing standards after nursing home executives [donated millions of dollars](#).

Because of Trump and Republicans, there is no guarantee that there will always be a nurse in a nursing home. Residents are left to [endure](#) months without showers, days trapped in bed sitting in their own waste, and missed meals and medications. Families and inspectors have documented devastating consequences, from residents [dying from falls](#) while covered in stool, to the use of [antipsychotic drugs as chemical restraints](#) because facilities were understaffed.

Nearly [all voters](#) 50 and older (94%) support minimum nursing home staffing standards as a basic safeguard. **Adequate staffing is the single most important factor related to ensuring quality of care in nursing homes.** Despite the industry claiming the Biden administration's minimum standards would shutter nursing homes, [analyses showed](#) they would only need to hire a modest number of staff to comply.

Rolling back staffing standards also harms direct care workers. **Understaffed nursing homes are impossible environments for staff to provide the care residents deserve.**

The Solution: The Nurses Belong in Nursing Homes Act would restore common-sense protections and make nursing homes safe. The legislation:

- Requires an RN to be in a nursing home 24/7, **ensuring there is always a nurse to help.**
- Sets an initial federal minimum staffing standard to make sure that each resident receives at least three and a half hours of nursing care per day.
- Ensures regular, evidence-based updates to staffing standards to reflect resident needs.
- Provides permanent funding for nursing home inspections, surveys, and enforcement to ensure compliance with staffing requirements.
- Bolsters the nursing home workforce by reinvesting civil monetary penalties imposed on nursing homes into supporting recruitment and retention of nursing home workers.
- Holds nursing homes accountable for investing taxpayer dollars into the frontline nursing home workforce rather than increasing their own profits.

Endorsed by: Caring Across Generations, Center for Medicare Advocacy, ConsumerVoice, Elder Justice Coalition, Justice in Aging, The Long Term Care Community Coalition, National Health Law Program, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Nurses Association, PHI, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), International Association of Machinists Union (IAM Union), National Domestic Workers Alliance, United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW).