

Save NH Care

The NH State Budget for FYs '24 & '25 was released by Governor Chris Sununu on February 14, 2023. Whereas in prior years long-term care providers were given no increases in the initial budget, we are grateful that Gov. Sununu understood the need for increases and offered a modest annual 3% increase. This increase was improved upon by the NH House in its budget, which is now before the NH Senate for revision and approval. We need you to ask the Senate to support the House Medicaid increases, and advocate about the need for even greater funding increases to offset the increases in the cost of providing care.

The problem:

- **Costs are rising:**
 - Caregiver wages are the largest expense to long-term care facilities. Wage costs have risen exponentially over the past three years. Funding constrains the facilities' ability to attract a competent, dedicated workforce amid a tight labor market.
 - Chronic underfunding and wage limitations have contributed to a shortage of qualified caregivers. This puts facilities at the mercy of staffing agencies who charge exorbitant rates to fill staffing gaps with inconsistent caregivers.
 - Inflation is causing increases in the costs of goods and services that nursing homes require to sustain operations and provide quality care. You've noticed food and energy costs at home (some doubling!), facilities are facing the same increases on a much larger scale.
- **Reimbursement isn't keeping pace:**
 - Over **60% of nursing home residents rely on Medicaid** to pay for their care. Daily Medicaid reimbursement rates do NOT cover the cost of caring for these residents.

Why you should be concerned:

- Are you/your loved one a private payer? Your monthly bills may be higher as providers must find a way to close the funding gap to sustain care.
- Providers need to find ways to cut their costs. While they do everything possible to provide seamless, quality care to residents, there is only so much they can do when funding is limited.
- If the deficit continues, providers may have to limit the number of residents they care for who are covered by Medicaid.

Why legislators should be concerned:

- Hospitals are overflowing with residents in need of transfer to appropriate levels of care. This limits their ability to care for new patients in NEED of care at a hospital. This is bottlenecking and adding financial strain to the healthcare system.
- If nursing homes cannot sustain operations, they will be forced to further downsize and close, further limiting availability for those in need of care.

What can make this situation right?

Increase the budget allocation for Medicaid payments to providers.

How can you help?

- Contact your local legislator OR the legislator who is local to the nursing home.
 - *Phone calls and e-mails are best. Written letters work too. Whatever you are most comfortable with!*
- Let them know that you are concerned.
- Make them aware of the above issues.
- Tell them how this personally affects you, your loved ones, and those who provide care.
- Remind them to carefully consider the impact of their decisions on you and your residents as they review and deliberate the budget.



Scan to find your NH Senator