



ACTION ALERT

Tell Congress Nursing Homes Need Regulatory Relief

The present system of nursing home oversight is overly burdensome and counterproductive to high quality nursing home care. This action alert identifies specific ways you can be part of the effort to stop onerous nursing home regulations.

How You Can Help

It is important to tell your members of Congress why the current regulatory system is strangling our nursing homes, especially the Rule on Requirements of Participation (RoPs) finalized in September. It is critical that we communicate to Congress that the nursing home regulatory system is broken and needs to be fixed.

What You Can Do Now

1. **Write your representative and senators today**
[Use this sample letter](#) to send to your legislators. We encourage you to personalize the letter with a description of the hardship that overly-burdensome rules are having on your organization and the people you serve.
2. **Call your legislators next week**
LeadingAge is hosting a 3-day regulatory call-in from Feb. 14-16.

Steps for Making a Call

- Dial this **toll-free number 866-957-4834**. You will be prompted to enter your zip code to get patched through to your lawmaker and leave a brief message.
- The automated system will first connect you to your Representative's office. Leave a message with the staff person who answers the phone.
- **After leaving your message, do not hang up.** Allow the staff person to hang up. The automated system will then connect you to your Senators.

What You Can Do During the Upcoming Congressional Recess

Congress is scheduled to head to their home states Feb. 20-24 for the President's Day recess. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to connect with your lawmakers at home.

- **Invite lawmakers to tour your nursing home communities** so they can meet residents and staff and see first-hand how nursing homes deliver quality care.

- **Schedule a meeting with lawmakers** or their staff in their state or district office.
- **Attend a town hall meeting or public forum.** Lawmakers often post information about these events to their websites.

Talking Points

- The current nursing home regulatory system is burdensome and counter-productive to providing quality care. The new rule on RoPs is one example.
- CMS underestimated the financial and operational cost of compliance with RoP, which even CMS admits is the most comprehensive revision of the nursing home rules since 1991.
- The time frame for implementing the rule is incredibly short. CMS is requiring implementation before the agency has issued formal guidance that will explain how it expects nursing homes to comply with the terms of the rule.
- This is unfair to you and all the other providers who want to comply.
- Ask Congress to suspend implementation of the rule so it can be reevaluated to determine which provisions are necessary and productive.

Be The Voice and [Join the Seniors Action Network](#) Today!

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