

**Nursing Home Budget Advocacy and Talking Points**

**December 2021**

- I am calling you today to urge you to contact the Governor and urge her to take immediate action to address the unprecedented stress that the long-term care system and my own organization, are currently experiencing.
- After nearly 2 years of absorbing exorbitant pandemic-related costs with no financial relief from the State, and 14 years without a rate increase to account for inflation, **nursing homes need an immediate, emergency investment of \$259.3 million for the current state fiscal year (SFY 2021-22). This investment would restore the \$168 million cut enacted in 2020, provide a 3.4 percent Medicaid rate increase, and provide targeted funding for high-quality homes and to stabilize financially distressed homes.**
- This investment must be continued and expanded in the coming fiscal year. In SFY 2022-2023, we are seeking **\$586.5 million** to support the continuation of Medicaid rate increases and across-the-board cut restorations, additional enhanced quality pool funding, financially distressed nursing home stabilization funding, an additional 3.3 percent Medicaid Rate increase, and targeted funds for nursing home staffing.
- This level of investment is needed to enable nursing homes to cover costs and pay competitive wages to recruit and retain staff. **New York's Medicaid rate for nursing homes is the worst in the country** when the cost of care is compared to payment.
- Emergency relief funding is critical for my own organization and the residents in our care, as well as other nursing homes across the state that are contending with the worst staffing shortages in memory and financial hardship.
- Across the long-term care continuum, many nursing homes **[including my organization]** have suspended admissions and closed units, because they are unable to find sufficient staff. This is now causing significant back-up in hospitals as they are unable to discharge patients to nursing homes or home care agencies that do not have capacity to take in new residents.
- Our most vulnerable older adults are unable to access services as a result of the state's failure to adequately fund long-term care services.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic nearly 2 years ago, we have been working tirelessly to provide the best care possible to our nursing home residents with no support or assistance from the State.
- Now, we are reaching a breaking point. Not-for-profit and public nursing homes are closing or selling to for-profit companies at an accelerating rate.
- It is time for New York to step up and provide the financial relief and Medicaid rate increases that New York's nursing homes and the residents in our care deserve.
- **An immediate, emergency Medicaid rate increase to NY nursing homes is long over-due. I urge you to work with the Governor NOW to permanently restore the \$168 million cut enacted in 2020 and direct an immediate 3.4% Medicaid rate increase to NY Nursing Homes for State Fiscal Year 2021-22.**
- **Please be sure to share specifics of your own organization with lawmakers. What do your finances currently look like? Have you had to close units or stop admissions due to staffing issues? What have you seen happen in your organization in recent months? How are your organization's current challenges affecting the community at large?**