



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FEDERAL STANDARDS ON NURSING HOME STAFFING DON'T GO FAR ENOUGH TO PROTECT QUALITY CARE FOR LONG TERM CARE RESIDENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

(RALEIGH, NC)- Last Friday, President Biden issued new standards for establishing minimum nursing home staffing. Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care was very hopeful with what the Biden administration wanted to implement and how it will impact people receiving long-term care services as better staffing leads to better outcomes and, above all, quality care.

Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care is pleased that the proposed regulations require that each facility employ a registered nurse around the clock, which is an increase from the current requirement of eight hours daily.

Unfortunately, the proposed regulations have set overall staffing levels at insufficient levels to assure quality. Under the proposed regulations, nursing facilities would be required to provide 3 hours of direct care per resident per day, comprised of at least 2.45 hours from nurse aides and .55 hours from registered nurses. Also, the regulations would allow facilities to obtain waivers of the standards under certain conditions.

Over twenty years ago, an in-depth, evidenced-based CMS [study](#) found that each nursing home resident required at least 4.1 hours of direct care each day to avoid compromised care that placed residents at risk of harm. Because residents today

require higher acuity care than residents in the past the proposed standard of 3 hours daily is simply not adequate.

North Carolina is aging at a rapid pace and we need to ensure qualified and trained staff are in place to provide quality care to residents. Inadequate staffing is the root of poor care.

**About Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care**

[Friends of Residents in Long Term Care](#) is the only independent, non-profit (501C3), non-partisan advocacy organization in North Carolina whose mission is to advance the quality of long-term care. We help residents get the quality care they deserve, as well as their caregivers who want to ensure that their loved ones are under the best care and supervision. We serve as the consumer voice for families, caregivers, and residents in skilled nursing homes and assisted living communities.