



ACTION ALERT

Tell Your Members Of Congress To Cosponsor The Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act (H.R. 6986)

The Issue

Right now, nursing homes that are assessed penalties above a certain level automatically lose their authority to train certified nursing assistants (CNAs) for 2 years. This "CNA Training Lockout" runs counter to a nursing home's ability to provide the highest quality of care.

The Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act (H.R. 6986) has just been introduced in the House of Representatives. The bill would end the mandatory CNA training lockout. Rather than this arbitrary 2-year penalty, CMS and the states would have the discretion to impose a lockout under certain conditions; and any lockout imposed would end once the deficiencies cited are corrected.

By allowing nursing homes to regain their nursing assistant training authority as soon as deficiencies have been corrected, this new legislation will facilitate quality improvement in our nation's nursing homes. Now is the time to use your voice and help us build momentum for this new legislation.

Contact your legislators NOW!

How You Can Help

- Email your lawmakers TODAY!
- [Forward this action alert to your network.](#)

Steps for Sending an Email:

- Visit this [action alert information page](#) and follow the instructions to email your senator/representative.



LeadingAge and AHCA Statement on the Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act

Leading Industry Groups Support Legislation to End Mandatory CNA Training Lock-Outs

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September 28, 2018 Washington D.C. -- [LeadingAge](#) and the [American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living](#) applaud today's introduction of the Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act. Leaders of both organizations, which combined represent the majority of America's skilled nursing and long-term care providers, praise Rep. Sean Duffy (R-WI) for his leadership on a long-overdue initiative that will support nursing homes' efforts to train staff and provide the highest quality of care to older adults.

The legislation introduced today modifies the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training lock-out mandated by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (OBRA). It eliminates the statute's rigid provisions and grants CMS greater flexibility in reinstating providers' valuable CNA training programs.

"Nursing homes and other long-term care providers are grappling with a severe workforce shortage. The ability to train CNAs is crucial to building and maintaining a pipeline of qualified staff," said LeadingAge president and CEO Katie Smith Sloan. "We have advocated for this change to OBRA for many years. The introduction of this bill is a monumental step forward in our ongoing efforts to address the challenges providers face in recruiting and retaining workers."

Under OBRA, nursing homes assessed civil monetary penalties above a certain level on their annual survey automatically lose their authority to train CNAs for two years. The suspension is required even if the fines are unrelated to the quality of care given to residents or if the care deficiencies cited on the survey are unrelated to the nursing home's CNA training program. Additionally, training cannot be reinstated before the two-year period ends even if a provider fixes the problem for which it is fined. CNAs, who provide direct care to residents, are critical members of every nursing home's care team.

"Effectively eliminating training programs for vital front-line staff threatens the quality of care we provide, particularly as the shortage of health care workers becomes more acute," said Mark

Parkinson, president and CEO of the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living. "CNAs are the backbone of quality care and the jobs that nursing homes and assisted living communities provide are often integral to the community, particularly in rural and small communities where they are the major employer in the area. This bill will help everyone be more responsive to the needs of residents and providers."

Both LeadingAge and AHCA/NCAL appreciate the leadership Rep. Duffy has shown on this issue, and urge his House colleagues to join him in cosponsoring this important legislation.

About LeadingAge

The mission of LeadingAge is to be the trusted voice of aging. Our 6,000+ members and partners include nonprofit organizations representing the entire field of aging services, 38 state associations, hundreds of businesses, consumer groups, foundations and research centers. LeadingAge is also part of the Global Ageing Network, whose membership spans 30 countries. LeadingAge is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization focused on education, advocacy and applied research.

About AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represents more than 13,500 nonprofit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute care centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit www.ahca.org or www.ncal.org.