

Legislative Tours Talking Points

-CMS has finalized a Minimum Staffing Rule that will cripple long term care facilities across the nation. In Utah it will cost nursing homes an additional \$15 million dollars per year to meet the requirement. This rule will also require nursing homes to hire an additional 310 staff members. The unemployment rate in Utah is very low and the staff to hire are simply not there, making satisfying this rule extremely difficult and will impose hefty civil penalties.

-In 2023, Utah nursing homes denied over 1200 admissions to their facilities due to lack of staffing. To meet the Minimum Staffing Rule requirements, it is estimated that there will be a need decrease overall census in the state by 625 residents. This means that patients will stay in hospitals longer and cost the state a lot more money for those patients funded through Medicaid.

-60% of nursing home residents are funded through Medicaid. Unlike other businesses, these facilities cannot simply charge Medicaid more, despite the extreme increase to their daily operations (ie: labor, food, supplies etc). Unfortunately, Utah facilities operate on a shortfall of \$70/day per resident through the Medicaid rate. This coupled with the increase in costs is debilitating to these businesses who want to continue to care for Utah's most vulnerable older adults.

-Utah will see an 18% increase in older adults by 2027 and a decrease in caregivers by 5%. With an increasing need for post-acute care in Utah, it is important that Utah's legislators invest in long-term care so we can remain viable to care for the older adults that need our care.

-Many Utah Assisted Living Facilities participate in the New Choices Waiver program. This Medicaid Waiver program allows lower income older adults to reside in Assisted Living Facility at a lower cost. Utah has utilized this program for 20 years and it has only been increased one time. This has led to Assisted Living Communities throughout the state to shut down their waiver program because it is too costly. It is more cost effective for the state to invest in this program so that residents can live in an appropriate setting rather than ending up in a higher cost setting such as the hospital.