

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**The Long-Term Care Imperative Responds to Finalized CMS Staffing Ratio Ruling**  
*Disappointed in the ruling, LTCI urges elected officials to take action to prioritize longterm care.*

**April 23 – ST. PAUL , MINN.** – April 22, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a rule that will impose minimum staffing ratios on nursing homes nationwide despite evidence that no single staffing level can guarantee quality care. The Long-Term Care Imperative, a partnership between Care Providers of Minnesota and LeadingAge Minnesota representing Minnesota’s long-term care sector, issued the following statement in response:

“Every senior in Minnesota should have access to quality senior care in their home community. We are disappointed and dismayed that this mandate is moving forward at a time when there are 18,000 vacant positions across the long-term care sector, despite significant efforts to recruit and retain enough caregivers to serve Minnesota’s growing population of seniors.

Minnesota alone is home to one million seniors, and almost 70% will need care in a long-term care setting in their remaining years. However, critical workforce shortages due to demographic shifts inhibit the ability for the sector to adequately meet the moment. We need state and federal lawmakers to partner with providers to build a pipeline of professional caregivers to meet the growing demands for senior care.

Given the persistent workforce crisis, which limits our ability to recruit and retain staff, and the astronomical costs of the rule, we are disappointed that CMS didn’t sufficiently moderate the rule despite our advocacy. There are potentially devastating and long-lasting impacts, such as nursing homes being forced to close if they cannot meet the new staffing mandates. These closures would affect the ability of vulnerable adults to receive needed care.

Data indicates that less than five percent of nursing homes will be able to meet these standards today, especially without support from the State of Minnesota to increase caregiver wages. Nursing homes that cannot meet this new standard face the possibility of closing their doors, leaving seniors and their families to travel further for much needed care.

In the absence of meaningful solutions at the federal level, we call on our state policymakers to act in this legislative session to pass additional funding to extend the \$12.35 rate add-on for nursing homes that passed last session and will sunset at the end of the year. This temporary-rate add-on helped recruit and retain staff in the past year at our nursing homes in Minnesota. However, if this rate add-on is allowed to expire, it will come at the worst possible time. Without the rate add-on, many nursing homes face a fiscal cliff. When coupled with the new CMS rule, this underinvestment will only further harm access to care for seniors.

With only four weeks remaining in the 2024 session, Minnesota’s lawmakers must prioritize senior care funding and take action to support our seniors and those who care for them.”

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*The Long-Term Care Imperative (LTCI) is a partnership of Minnesota's two senior care provider associations – [Care Providers of Minnesota](#) and [LeadingAge Minnesota](#). LTCI members employ 80,000 professional caregivers in Minnesota, meeting the needs of seniors in all the places seniors call home – including short-term care, assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing homes.*