



Support Skilled Nursing Patients

Protect Fair Funding and Access to Skilled Nursing Care



ADVOCACY REQUEST:

Support Skilled Nursing Patients

Restore Workforce and Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) in the State Budget

California's more than 1,000 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) are a critical part of the state's healthcare safety net, providing 24-hour medical care to nearly 500,000 of the state's most vulnerable patients each year—almost all of whom rely on Medi-Cal or Medicare.

But California is failing skilled nursing patients, because of systemic underfunding and recent budget cuts that eliminate critical workforce investments.

In July 2025, the state budget cut the Workforce and Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) that eliminated \$300 million in state and federal funding for SNFs, impacting critical **resources that patients and families rely on for safe, high-quality care**. WQIP funds vital investments in workforce recruitment and training, salaries and facility improvements.

WQIP must be restored so that skilled nursing facility patients receive the care they need. Without this critical funding, SNFs risk staffing shortages, reduced patient services, and potential facility closures, threatening access to care for our most vulnerable patients.

California must act this year to restore WQIP funds to protect skilled nursing patients.

We support the reinstatement of WQIP:

- California Association of Health Facilities
- Alzheimer's Association
- American College of Health Care Administrators
- American Health Care Association
- Association of California Healthcare Districts
- California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- California Association for Adult Day Services
- California Association for Health Services at Home
- California Association for Long Term Care Medicine
- California Association of Nurse Practitioners
- California Hospice and Palliative Care Association
- California Medical Transportation Association
- California Physical Therapy Association
- Coalition for Compassionate Care of California
- La Clínica de la Raza
- LeadingAge California
- National Association of Director of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care
- Occupational Therapy Association of California
- Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California

How the State Is Failing Skilled Nursing Patients and Caregivers

In addition to cutting WQIP, the state's Medi-Cal reimbursement rate underfunds skilled nursing facility care by \$1.5 billion every year.

The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on Patients:



MEALS

The state reimburses just **\$9.73 per day** to cover a patient's food costs.

That's less than the cost of a single fast-food meal.



HOUSING

The state provides **less than \$15 per day** to support a patient's housing needs, which equates to \$400 per month.

This is significantly lower than the average cost of a \$150 for a one-night stay in a hotel room in the Sacramento region.



CAREGIVERS

The impact of losing Workforce and Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) funding to a typical 100-bed facility is equivalent to the loss of six caregivers.

Governor Newsom and state legislators must prioritize sustainable, fair funding for SNF patients and their caregivers.

Actions Requested:

- 1 Oppose the Department of Health Care Services Budget Trailer Bill unless amended to restore \$300 million (\$150 million General Fund + \$150 million Federal Funds) in WQIP funding.
- 2 Join the legislative sign-on letter to support restoring WQIP funding and securing fair, adequate funding for skilled nursing facilities, helping preserve access to high-quality care for our most vulnerable patients.

CONTACT

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