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North Carolina Legislators:

Thank you for all you are doing for North Carolina and the citizens of the state. On April 16, 2020, President Trump issued Guidelines - [Opening Up America Again](#). The Guidelines note that under “Core State Preparedness Responsibilities”, states are to “Protect the health and safety of those living and working in high-risk facilities (e.g., senior care facilities)”. COVID-19 has caused unprecedented strain on adult care home residents, employees, and operators. Our recommendations below should be considered critical needs necessary to protect our senior citizens and those who care for them.

State/County Special Assistance (“SA”) Temporary Payments: \$184 per resident per month

- Fund the temporary (SA) payments at the rate of \$184/ resident/ month as set out in [Senate Bill 538](#) and [House Bill 539](#) retroactive to January 1, 2020.
 - These temporary SA payments provide much needed compensation to adult care homes for the care they are providing to our state's elderly citizens.
 - Making these payments retroactive to January 1st of this year will help providers 'catch up' on funding that has been absent for almost one year, which has placed a continuing and significant financial strain on adult care home providers.

Medicaid Personal Care Services (PCS) Rate Increase: \$18.50 per hour

- Increase Medicaid PCS to \$18.50/hour.
 - Medicaid PCS rates have been stagnant for several years.
 - Even before COVID-19, long term care providers were facing a direct care worker crisis as they struggled to pay adequate wages to workers.
 - Providers are now having to pay higher wages to recruit and retain workers because of the risks posed by Covid-19.

Liability Immunity for Long Term Care and Other Providers

- The NC Senior Living Association supports strong liability protection for actions taken in good faith during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Long term care and other health care providers face potential liability due to factors that are out of their control as a result of COVID-19 including shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), staff refusing to work in facilities with identified infections, and the necessity of staff and outside health care providers coming into contact with multiple residents.

Prioritize state relief funds for providers that do not receive Medicare/other Federal funding

- Adult care homes and other health care providers that do not receive Medicare funding should be considered a priority for supplemental state financial support to help them survive the financial crisis created by Covid-19.
 - Adult care homes will not receive direct federal assistance like health care providers who receive Medicare.

Again, thank you for your leadership, time and commitment to North Carolina and its citizens residing in our state's adult care homes. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at email: jeff@ncseniorliving.org or cell: (919) 614-2629 or Dan Soucek, Lobbyist, at email: dansoucek@gmail.com or cell: (828) 773-6197.

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