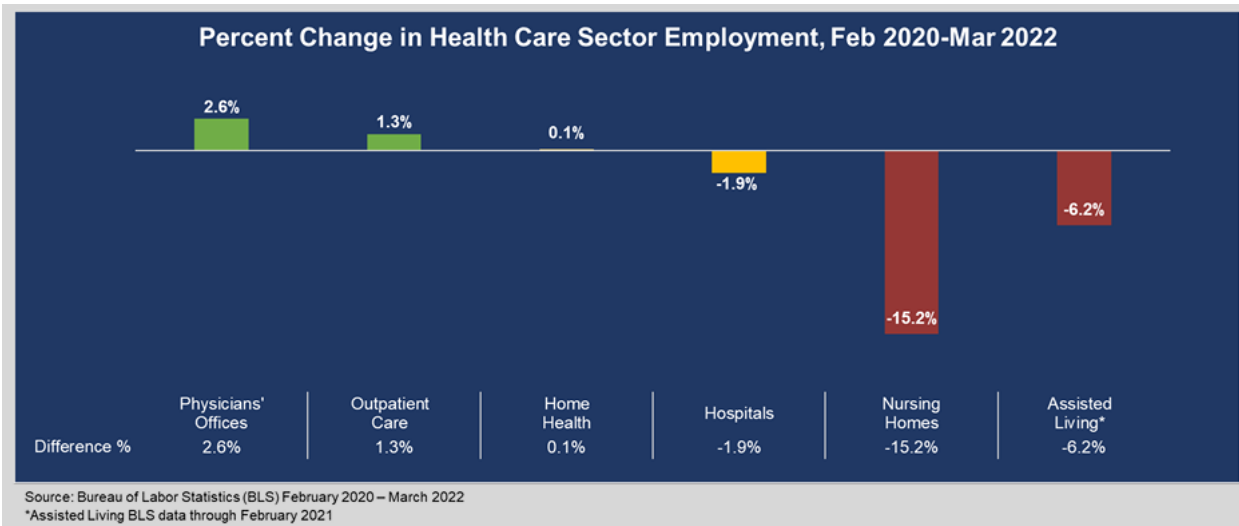


## BACKGROUND AND FACTS

- This is not a matter of poorer care for residents but one of access to care. We refuse to compromise on care, so staffing shortages mean many nursing homes have had to limit the number of residents they can serve.
  - Our most recent [survey](#) of providers found that 6 out of 10 nursing homes are having to limit new admissions. For some, the lack of available staff has led to closing the facility entirely.
- It is misguided to focus solely on state staffing regulations and to assume that increasing government staffing requirements will solve this labor crisis.
  - As our survey also found, the primary issue for long term care providers is a lack of interested or qualified candidates. Policymakers must direct resources and support to help attract, train, and retain individuals to work in long term care.
- Many health care providers are facing a labor crisis right now, but nursing homes are grappling with the worst loss compared to all other health care sectors: <https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Fact-Sheets/FactSheets/BLS-MARCH2022-JOBS-REPORT.pdf>



- This is despite making the largest wage increases compared to any other health care sector. Nursing home workers saw wage increases in 2020 (9.5%) and 2021 (6.3%) that outpaced those working at other types of care facilities. - <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama-health-forum/fullarticle/2789521>
- The majority of nursing home residents rely on Medicaid and Medicare to pay for their care, and Medicaid is notoriously underfunded. This lack of funding means nursing homes struggle to compete for workers against hospitals and other health care providers as well as private industries who can offer better pay and benefits. Increasing staffing minimums without corresponding resources and support surmounts to an unfunded government mandate that will only make the situation worse.

- Staffing shortages in nursing homes not only impact access to care for seniors, but also have a trickle-down effect on other health care providers, especially hospitals that are unable to discharge patients when they need to free up space. See this recent story of how overwhelmed hospitals were impacted during Omicron: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/12/28/nursing-home-hospital-staff-shortages/>
- According to our most recent provider survey, more than 7 in 10 nursing homes are having to hire temporary staffing agencies. These agencies are charging 2-3x pre-pandemic rates, stretching limited resources even thinner and making it difficult for long term care providers to invest in full-time, dedicated staff members. We are supporting [legislation](#) that would investigate the practices of these staffing agencies during the pandemic.
- We project that more than 400 nursing homes could close this year due to this workforce and economic crisis: <https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Fact-Sheets/FactSheets/SNF-Closures-Report.pdf>
- Last year, we proposed a [comprehensive nursing home reform package](#) upon reflection of the pandemic, which included a multi-phased approach to address workforce challenges ([read the specific white paper here](#)). Here you'll see that we propose programs that help incentivize individuals to work in long term care, like loan forgiveness, tax credits, affordable housing, and childcare assistance.