

Draft Email to New Legislators

Dear Representative-Elect/Senator-Elect X **Name**,

I am reaching out first to congratulate you on your recent election to the Washington Legislature and to introduce myself. I am the administrator at **X** skilled nursing facility in your legislative district. We care for **X** residents and employ **X** caregivers.

Feel free to tell a little more about yourself, how long you have worked in the sector, etc.

With the upcoming legislative session, I would like to bring to your attention issues that are impacting the long term care sector:

1. **Inadequate Medicaid Rates.** Washington's Medicaid reimbursement rates are chronically low. The current payment system is not addressing growth in costs because they are not adjusted annually to keep up with growing wages. The current rate setting process results in rates that lags two to four years behind today's costs.
 - a. There was a rebase that just went into effect July 1, 2020, but that was based on 2018 costs and did not take into consideration or foresee the drastic increase in costs due to combating COVID-19.
2. **Disproportionate Impact.** The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted the residents for whom we provide care. We have been working particularly hard to maintain staffing, protect residents, ensure adequate PPE, respond to frequently changing requirements/standards by CMS, CDC, DSHS, DOH, DOSH, and our local health jurisdiction.
3. **Proposed Cuts.** DSHS was tasked by the Office of Financial Management to find areas to cut. In their proposal, DSHS cuts Medicaid eligibility standards and the rates. In total, cuts of over \$480 million are contemplated for state nursing homes over the 2021-2023 biennium.

It is critical to understand these issues and I am happy to be a resource for you. You can reach me by phone **PHONE NUMBER HERE** or by email **EMAIL ADDRESS HERE**. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,