

## 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** assisted living 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. Over the last five years, Medicaid caseloads for long-term care have increased by an average of 3% each year. But in the same time period, assisted living Medicaid caseloads have dropped by an average of 6.2% each year. Why is this? Assisted living facilities cannot afford to take on residents with Medicaid because the reimbursement rate is so low.
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 \$80 million for assisted living 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,