



Partners In Quality

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Illinois' Medicaid Crisis: Diminished Funding Impacts Quality

As someone with a family member in this community, we are asking you, your fellow family members and friends to inform your local legislators about the profound state of the Medicaid crisis in Illinois. It will only get worse unless we act now.

As an association, LSN can only do so much to inform the legislature of the fiscal collapse of Medicaid. It is you that can take action and help us enlist the support of legislators in averting this crisis that is already having a devastating impact on communities like the one your family member lives in.

Nursing care in this state faces a bleak future unless we combine our forces to change things for the better. Now is not the time to look away and hope someone else will take charge; every voice makes a difference and we need your help.

Illinois' Medicaid reimbursement rates have not kept up with the costs of providing high quality care:

- In 2006 the average Medicaid reimbursement rate per resident in Illinois was 76% of the cost of care and the gap is continuing to widen.
- While Illinois ranks as the ninth wealthiest state in America, it ranks 49th in average Medicaid rate paid to nursing homes.

Because of these financial challenges, quality care for your family member is at stake:

- In fiscal year 2006, the average time it took nursing homes to get their Medicaid reimbursement was estimated at 90-150 days; with some homes going as much as six months without payment. Can you think of any other organization that can survive without being paid for the services they provide for six months? The length of the payment cycle places undue stress and hardship upon communities and the hard-working, dedicated staff that provide the highest quality of care to your loved one.
- If Medicaid funding isn't increased, communities such as this will face the reality of having to cut staff and programs, which impacts your family and your family member's quality of life.

We are asking you to contact your respective state representative and state senator and tell them that you cannot tolerate the Medicaid crisis in Illinois and they need to allocate \$75 million more in General Revenue Funds for Medicaid. For information on contacting your legislator refer to the back side of this flyer.

What is Medicaid and Why Do We Need It?

Medicaid is a health and long term care insurance program that was established in 1965, which is also when Medicare was created.

- It covers healthcare and nursing care for individuals who, after a lifetime of working, have exhausted their assets and can no longer afford the high costs of their care and need the support of the public.
- It is Illinois largest provider of health insurance and the pre-dominate funding source for nursing home residents in Illinois as 63% of the residents in Illinois' nursing home population are on Medicaid.



Here's How to Contact Your State Senator or Representative

BY PHONE:

You can also contact LSN at 217.789.1677 for assistance in locating your legislator. Ask for Jason Speaks or Kirk Riva, they will be happy to help you!

If you know who your legislators are, you can contact the Illinois State Capitol switchboard at 1.217.782.2000 and ask for your legislator's office. The operator will connect you to their office.

IF YOU HAVE INTERNET ACCESS

- Go to LSN's website at www.lsn.org.
- Go to Public "Policy & Resource Center" tab and click on "Online Advocacy" in the drop-down menu. This will take you to www.CapWiz.com, our on-line advocacy center.
- Go to the "Elected Officials" tab and enter the requested information to locate your legislators.
- At the top of the page you will see a box that says "Action Alert!" with a smaller icon that says "Take Action!"
- Click on the "Take Action" icon and you will be taken to a page with an e-mail that you can send directly to your legislators. We encourage you to edit the e-mail to meet your individual needs and to mention the name of the nursing home where your loved one lives and their relation to you - (i.e. mother, grandfather etc.)
- Fill out the additional fields to complete the e-mail, preview your message to make sure it says what you want, and send it!
- You have the option of either e-mailing that message or printing it out and sending it by US Mail!

This nursing home is a member of Life Services Network (LSN).

For over 75 years, Life Services Network, has represented the leading providers of the complete continuum of services for older adults, including nursing care, supportive and assisted living, senior housing and home and community based services. With a diverse membership now numbering over 500 providers, LSN is the largest eldercare association in Illinois.

As one of the largest and most respected trade associations of its type in the country, LSN is nationally recognized for its innovative programs, leadership and expertise on issues related to long term care and senior housing and services.

Committed to the advancement of quality and innovation in older adult services, LSN is also the state affiliate of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) and the Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA).

Current Membership Statistics

- ▼ *Eldercare service providers:* 510
- ▼ *Eldercare service sites:* 610
- ▼ *Elder persons served, yearly:* 65,000
- ▼ *Member employees (FT/PT):* 120,000

For more information on Life Services Network, contact us at 630.325.6170 or 217.789.1677 or visit our website at www.lsn.org.



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