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## Oklahoma's Long-Term Care Advocates Have a Plan to Improve Quality of Life and Quality of Care for Vulnerable Seniors ...

Oklahoma's long-term care stakeholders, including a wide array of provider and consumer organizations, support the Nursing Home Quality Assurance Initiative. We agree that this legislation (HB 1902 and SB 280) will have a positive impact on Oklahoma's quality rankings and for residents of Oklahoma's nursing homes. Among the many groups in support of the language are the following key organizations:

LeadingAge Oklahoma  
Care Providers Oklahoma  
Oklahoma Nurses Association  
Oklahoma Alliance on Aging  
AARP Oklahoma

State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program  
Oklahoma State Council on Aging  
Oklahoma Chapter, Alzheimer's Association  
Oklahoma Silver-Haired Legislature Alumni Association

## The Nursing Home Quality Assurance Initiative (HB 1902 and SB 280)

Oklahoma must improve the care for our seniors and the disabled, as we strive to improve our poor ranking for life expectancy. Our state currently ranks among the 5 worst states in the U.S. for life expectancy, and 48th or worse in Quality Measures among Nursing Home Residents. Our state has one of the lowest Medicaid payment rates in the country. Our seniors deserve better. With the passage of the proposed measure, Oklahoma will be able to provide better care and be positioned to improve our rankings, as we strive to become Top 10!

This legislation provides the necessary requirements and funding to improve the safety, well-being and lives of seniors in Oklahoma, by enhancing the quality of care for our thousands of nursing home residents. Critical quality improvements will ensure that new funding will be directed to increased staffing, vital staff training, competitive wages and benefits, reducing staff turnover and improving care.

Full implementation of the following list of provisions is contingent upon the proposed additional Cost of Care Medicaid Funding:

### Resident-Centered Quality Improvements:

1. Establish a true quality, pay-for-performance component based on 4 proposed quality measures (improving outcomes and rankings focusing on Pressure Ulcers, Urinary Tract Infections, use of Antipsychotic Medications and Weight Loss among Nursing Home Residents).
2. Improve resident care and reduce staff turnover by increasing the Direct Care staffing ratio to 2.90 hours per resident per day, an increase from 2.41 hours.
3. Improve resident's quality of life by increasing the Personal Needs Allowance from \$50 per month to \$75 per month.
4. Improve the safety and well-being of residents by increasing needed mandatory Alzheimer's/Dementia training for all clinical staff to a minimum of 4 hours every year.
5. Increase resident protection and advocacy with additional Ombudsmen with a designated increase of 5 FTEs to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.
6. Maintains language that ensures provider accountability and transparency for any new funds to encourage provider investment in direct care staffing, employee benefits and training, all of which will reduce staff turnover.