

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Consumer Groups: Nursing Home Staffing Bill Misses the Mark

Urge Registered Nurse Requirements, Mandatory Penalties, Staffing Levels More in Line with Federally Identified Thresholds

ALBANY, N.Y. — The consumer organizations and their representatives listed below issued the following joint statement on state legislation to establish nursing home staffing ratios as proposed in [S6346-Rivera/A7119-Gunther](#):

“We appreciate state legislators’ commitment to improving nursing home care, dignity, and safety by establishing minimum staffing requirements. New York’s residents and families deserve to know that any licensed facility they go to will have safe staffing. New York taxpayers have the right to expect that they will get value for the billions of dollars they invest in nursing home care.

“While this bill is a step in the right direction by creating minimum nursing home staffing ratios where no ratios currently exist, we have several major concerns with this legislation.

“Much more is needed to better protect our seniors residing in nursing homes to ensure they receive the best care possible.

“We believe the bill should be improved by:

- Requiring nursing facilities to have at least one registered nurse (RN) provide .75 hours of care per resident per day - recognizing that increased RN staffing hours correlate to better quality outcomes.
- Requiring an RN in the building 24/7.
- Including a requirement to maintain all nursing staff at 4.1 hours per day per resident. This is the threshold identified by an important federal study as necessary just to provide for the basic clinical needs of nursing home residents.
- Including clear enforcement guidelines with penalties for facilities not complying with nursing home staffing levels.”

AARP New York, Beth Finkel, State Director

Long Term Care Community Coalition, Richard J. Mollot, Executive Director

Center for Elder Law & Justice, Karen Nicolson, CEO

Metro Justice, Ken Traub and MaryDel Wypych, co-chairs; Barbara Baer, co-chair Emeritus

Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled, Geoff Lieberman, Executive Director

Community Service Society of NY, Elisabeth R. Benjamin, MSPH, JD, Vice President, Health Initiatives

Human Rights Watch