More than half of state inspection agencies linked delays in crucial annual nursing home inspections to underfunding and understaffing within these critical state offices, according to a new U.S. Senate Aging report.

Antipsychotic (AP) drugs are intended for people with severe mental illness, but are routinely used inappropriately to sedate residents, particularly residents with dementia. When used inappropriately, these drugs can lead to significant adverse outcomes in the elderly, including heart attacks, strokes, Parkinsonism, falls, and death. Despite these known risks, the FDA approved a new AP drug, Rexulti (brexpiprazole), for treating agitation in Alzheimer’s patients.

"My investigation reveals unacceptable rates of vacancies at state survey agencies, threatening the safety and health of nursing home residents as their complaints collect dust while inspectors struggle to meet the demand." -U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging Chairman Bob Casey

GET THE FACTS

- Despite persistent industry claims of “razor-thin” margins as an excuse for inadequate staffing and substandard care, “skilled nursing valuations are high, and acceleration is expected” according to an investment and valuations expert.

- More than 95% of nursing home health violations are cited as causing no resident harm. In one "no harm" example, a resident’s teeth were missing and broken after not seeing a dentist in 20+ months. For more "no harm" deficiencies, check out LTCC’s Elder Justice Newsletter.

The Long Term Care Community Coalition is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to improving nursing home care.

Visit NursingHome411.org for the latest data on staffing levels and quality for every U.S. nursing home as well as resources on resident rights, quality standards, and more.