

# SENIOR CARE POLICY BRIEFING



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## NEWSFLASH

- [NY Attorney General's lawsuit against nursing home operator alleges misuse of over \\$83M in taxpayer funding](#), resulting in resident neglect, avoidable suffering, humiliation, and even death. **What you need to know:**
  - [The lawsuit is against Centers Health Care](#), a multi-state nursing home chain.
  - The AG alleges that "owners of Centers Health Care engaged in multiple fraudulent schemes to divert more than \$83 million in government funds from the nursing homes, including collusive real estate arrangements, unnecessary and exorbitant loans with inflated interest rates, phony fees paid to companies they and their family members own, and paying themselves inflated salaries for work that was not performed."
  - According to the AG, "[t]he horrors endured by the nursing homes' residents began well before the COVID-19 pandemic and resulted from [the owners] repeatedly operating the facilities with insufficient staffing in order to increase their own profits."
  - The AG further stated, "Rozenberg and Hagler (owners and operators) controlled the nursing homes using a partnership model that turned nursing homes into money-making machines."
  - **Why is this important?** In the face of President Biden's plan to implement minimum safe staffing standards, industry lobbyists have ramped up their unsupported claims that nursing homes don't get enough money to provide good care and cannot find more staff to hire. The AG's allegations indicate that the problem isn't low funding or lack of available nurses but, rather, a business model predicated on maximizing profits by exploiting workers and neglecting residents.
- [On June 28, CMS started publishing information nursing home affiliations \(parent companies\) on Care Compare](#). While LTCCC and other advocates have longed call for improved information on - and accountability for - nursing home chains, there are concerns about accuracy and timeliness of the self-reported data.

"Residents at these facilities were forced to sit for hours in their own urine and feces, suffered from severe dehydration, malnutrition, and increased risk of death, developed infections and sepsis from untreated bed sores and inconsistent wound care, sustained life-changing injuries from falls, and died."  
-AG Letitia James

## LTC BY THE NUMBERS

- **Healthcare Fraud.** [The Department of Justice announced criminal charges](#) against 78 defendants for their involvement in healthcare fraud and opioid abuse schemes. The alleged fraud, totaling over \$2.5 billion, largely targeted Medicare, Medicaid, and programs serving older adults. The defendants spent proceeds on luxury items (cars, jewelry, and yachts). The department seized or restrained millions of dollars in cash, cars, and real estate.
- **Steady Recovery.** Despite lobbyist claims that the sky is falling for nursing homes & assisted living, an industry [financing consultant reports "Positive Total Return in Senior Housing."](#)

## GET THE FACTS

- [Several federal court orders determined](#) that COVID-related lawsuits should be heard in state courts rather than federal courts, potentially challenging the immunity provided by the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act).
- [A new report reveals](#) that long-term care workers experienced decreased job satisfaction and increased strain during the pandemic. The report calls for "a comprehensive policy strategy... to tackle poor working conditions and insufficient social recognition of long-term care work."

VISIT [NURSINGHOME411.ORG/JOIN](https://nursinghome411.org/join) OR SCAN QR CODE FOR THE ONLINE VERSION OF THIS BRIEF.



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

Visit [NursingHome411.org](https://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.