

SENIOR CARE POLICY BRIEFING



August 30, 2023

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NEWSFLASH

- While industry lobbyists claim there isn't enough money to hire sufficient staff, nursing homes continue to report rosy revenues and profits:
 - National Healthcare Corporation (NHC), the nation's oldest publicly traded senior health care company, [reported a 4.1% year-over-year increase](#) in net operating revenues and grant income for Q2. NHC reported that this "was primarily due to the continued occupancy increase in our skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, skilled nursing per diem increases from some of our government payors, and the continued reduction of nurse agency staffing expense within our operations."
 - Chicago-based Ventas also [reported strong Q2 earnings](#). The company's US assisted living segment stood out with a notable 32.2% year-over-year growth in net operating income, fueled by occupancy gains.

LTC BY THE NUMBERS

- More self-reporting on big profits and financial gains...
 - [The Ensign Group](#), the third-largest nursing home company in the US, reported net income of \$64M and adjusted net income of \$66M for the quarter, an increase of 10.9% and 15.4%, respectively, over the same quarter in 2022.
 - Total skilled services revenue for the quarter was \$884.2 million (25.9% increase from 2022).
 - [LTC Properties reported](#) that, "The first half of 2023 was driven by substantial investment activity, generating growth this year and in the future."
 - Welltower, the [top Real Estate Investment Trust \(REIT\)](#) in the senior living sector, "is at the cusp of multi-year, double-digit growth due to occupancy gains, rate growth and lower operating expenses, [according to its CEO](#)."

GET THE FACTS

- Nursing homes are already paid to provide sufficient staffing. A federal safe staffing standard is needed now to correct a business model that puts profits over safety and dignity.
- [Claims by industry lobbyists](#) at the American Health Care Association and LeadingAge that there are not enough people to hire or money to pay for more staff are unsupported by independent data.
- Every nursing home resident deserves decent care and humane treatment. In the absence of a strong staffing standard, too many facilities exploit vulnerable residents and care staff with impunity.
- [A recent study](#) has revealed that people who work shifts (many LTC workers are defined as shift workers) are at a higher risk for experiencing depression and anxiety. The study suggests shift work should be recognized as an occupational hazard due to its impact on mental well-being.



Irony, tone-deaf, or just sad? These recent headlines from [McKnight's Senior Living](#) illustrate the gross imbalance in our current nursing home system.

While two major operators reported rosy financial outlooks on their Q2 earnings calls (one citing "9 consecutive quarters of revenue growth"), [a new survey found](#) that "50 percent of nurses have a 'side hustle' to earn extra income, explore opportunities."

Takeaway: While industry lobbyists are cynically demanding "HelpUsHire," in real life operators are prioritizing profit margins over providing decent, well-paying jobs for the nurses caring for vulnerable residents.

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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.