

# SENIOR CARE POLICY BRIEFING



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## NEWSFLASH

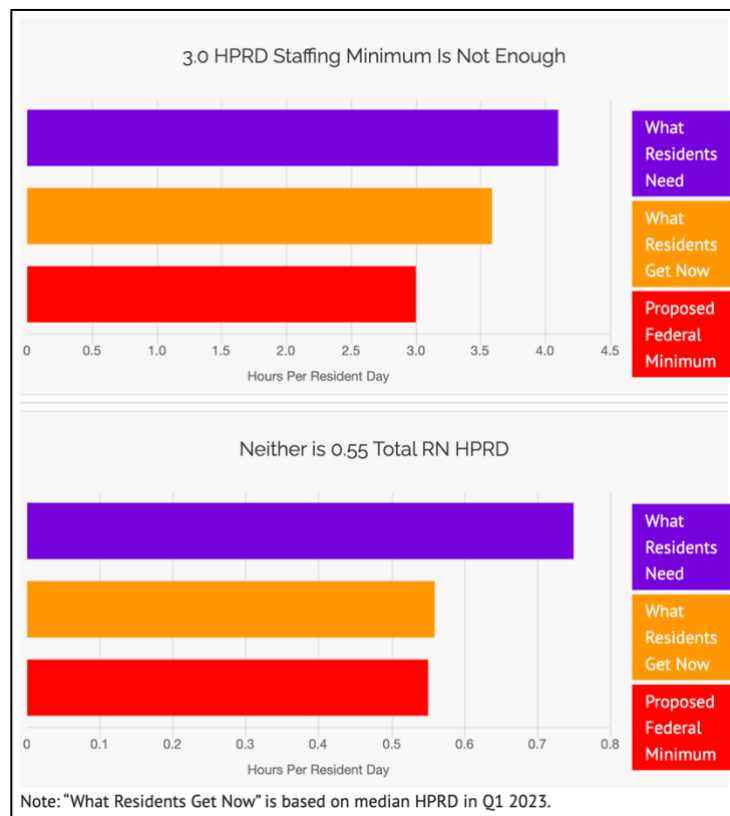
- **About a Dollar a Day.** That's the cost, per resident, that nursing homes would need to pay to meet the 24-hour RN requirement in CMS's proposed minimum staffing standards. [LTCCC's new analysis](#) finds that the annual cost to meet the 24-hour RN standard costs only \$71 million – a fraction of the \$610 million cost industry leaders claim.
- **3.0 is NOT enough.** [Nursing home residents need 4.1](#) nurse hours per resident day (HPRD) to receive sufficient clinical care and avoid unnecessary harm, according to a landmark federal study. CMS's proposed minimum of 3.0 HPRD could result in many facilities *decreasing* staff. It must be increased. **Residents deserve better.**
- **A New Resident Population.** Assisted living lobbyists often fight safety and staffing standards while at the same time [acknowledging that](#) "[t]he level of needs of older adults moving into assisted living communities today is similar to that of seniors who would move into nursing homes in the past."

## LTC BY THE NUMBERS

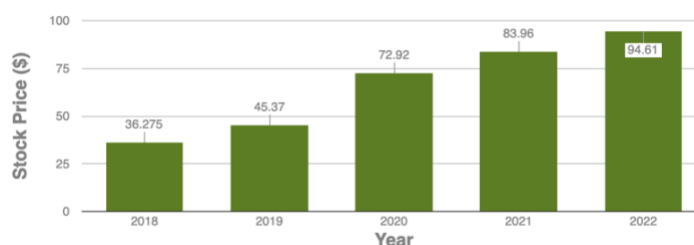
- [A neurology-focused program aimed at reducing antipsychotic drug \(AP\) usage](#) in nursing homes resulted in a 68% decrease in usage among individuals with behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia. Additionally, it identified diagnostic corrections for 35% of the residents in the study, indicating that many had previously been misdiagnosed with conditions like schizophrenia rather than dementia.

## GET THE FACTS

- [Nursing home REITs](#) (Real Estate Investment Trusts) offer attractive investment opportunities, especially given the aging population. However, research indicates that ["\[s\]eparating real estate from care operations... poses serious risks and dangers for patient care."](#) **The absence of strong staffing and financial accountability standards incentivizes operators to reduce care and maximize profits.**
- Though lobbyists claim that this isn't the time for safe staffing standards, the [senior living sector](#) is expected to see a strong recovery over the next 12 to 18 months, potentially outperforming the rest of the real estate sector.



## Ensign's Year End Stock Prices



NOTE: The Closing Price, Day's High, Day's Low, and Day's Volume have been adjusted to account for any stock splits and/or dividends which may have occurred for this security since the date shown. The Split Adjustment Factor is a cumulative factor which encapsulates all splits since the date shown. The closing price is not necessarily indicative of future price performance.



The Ensign Group is a large, multi-state nursing home chain. It has slightly lower nurse staffing levels, especially in RN staffing, and performance in deficiencies and COVID-19 statistics was slightly below or on par with the national average. Despite this, stock prices continue to climb year after year. **It seems that Ensign prioritizes investors over nursing home residents.**

