

SENIOR CARE POLICY BRIEF

July 15, 2025

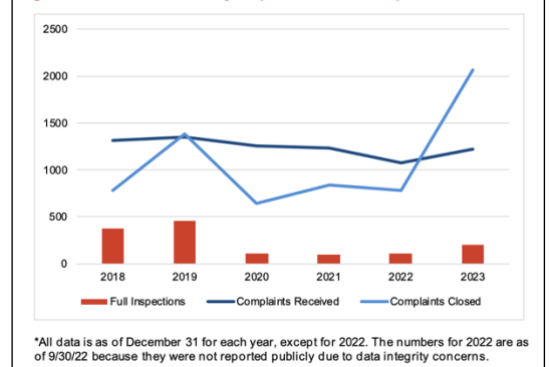
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NEWSFLASH

- In the largest health care fraud enforcement action in U.S. history, [the Department of Justice announced](#) charges against 324 individuals for schemes amounting to over \$14.6 billion in alleged fraudulent billing.
 - ⇒ Among those implicated were two nursing home chains, which quietly agreed to settlements as part of this sweep, [according to McKnight's](#).
 - ⇒ LTCCC previously highlighted the troubling record of one of the chains, Centers Health Care, in our [Elder Justice Newsletter](#). Centers has also been the subject of a [major NYS Attorney General investigation](#). The other chain, Villa Healthcare, was a subject of a [recent investigation by the Consumer Voice and Michigan Elder Justice Initiative](#).
 - ⇒ **Why is this important?** Too many nursing homes and other providers exploit our healthcare system every day by flouting minimum care standards, tunneling resources into hidden profits, and other fraudulent behavior. Though not a substitute for systemic quality assurance, which is supposed to be provided by state health departments, the DOJ's work here sends a powerful message that providers can face consequences if they fail to keep their promises to consumers and taxpayers.
- An [audit released by NY State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli](#) examined adult care facility oversight by the state Department of Health (DOH) between January 2018 and October 2024. It found widespread oversight failures.
 - ⇒ DOH failed to conduct mandatory inspections within the required 12- to 18-month timeframe at 70% of sampled facilities, with delays of up to five years in some regions.
 - ⇒ During site visits to 20 adult care facilities, auditors observed serious safety hazards including crumbling stairs, malfunctioning dishwashers and refrigerators, lack of fire drills, and even a half-empty vodka bottle in a medical room.
 - ⇒ Other issues included expired medication left uncorrected for four years and staff uncertified in first aid more than 13 months after being cited.
 - ⇒ These findings highlight longstanding vulnerabilities in care quality – even beyond fraud concerns – and reinforce calls for tougher enforcement and accountability across all long-term care settings.

Figure 1 – Adult Care Facility Inspections and Complaints, 2018–2023*



BIG BILL, BIG CUTS

- On July 3, Congress passed the so-called “Big Beautiful Bill,” which will have devastating consequences for vulnerable Americans, particularly older adults and people with disabilities who rely on Medicaid and long-term care services. The bill also delays nursing home staffing standards until 2035.
 - ⇒ [Read LTCCC's statement](#) on the passage of the bill.

“This postponement [of nursing home staffing standards] was included under the false pretense of saving taxpayer dollars by delaying the rule’s effect. In reality, the expense ought to have been borne by the mostly for-profit nursing home industry that is collecting billions while residents suffer and die.”

–[Dean Lerner, The Gazette](#)