

LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION

Advancing Quality, Dignity & Justice

Statement of the Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC) On the Importance of Protecting the Long-Term Care Workforce

July 10, 2026 – The Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC) stands in solidarity with 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and other organizations gathering today. While we are unable to join you at today's press conference, we are compelled to submit this statement to express our deep concern over the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian healthcare workers, which threatens the safety and well-being of nursing home residents.

New York's nursing homes continue to face chronic staffing shortages that jeopardize resident safety, dignity, and quality of life, with many facilities operating with insufficient numbers of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants. The individuals who provide hands-on care every day, including many workers with TPS, are essential to the functioning of these facilities and to the well-being of the people who live in them.

For years, immigrant healthcare workers have been an indispensable part of New York's long-term care system. Many have devoted decades to caring for older adults and people with disabilities, developing relationships with residents and families while gaining invaluable clinical experience and institutional knowledge. Their work cannot simply be replaced overnight.

In long-term care, continuity of care is essential. Residents depend on consistent caregivers who know their medical needs, communication styles, routines, and personal preferences. This continuity is particularly important for residents living with dementia or other cognitive impairments, who often rely on familiar faces and established relationships to feel secure and to receive effective, person-centered care.

Removing experienced caregivers from an already strained workforce risks increasing staff turnover, disrupting continuity of care, and placing additional burdens on the remaining staff. These disruptions can contribute to poorer quality of care, delayed assistance with daily needs, and greater risk of avoidable harm for residents.

The people most affected by these decisions are nursing homes residents – older adults and individuals with disabilities who depend on compassionate, knowledgeable caregivers every day. Protecting the long-term care workforce is essential to protecting the health, safety, dignity, and quality of life of those residents.

LTCCC stands with the dedicated caregivers who provide essential services in our nursing homes and urges policymakers to consider the devastating consequences that workforce disruptions will have on residents, families, and the long-term care system as a whole.