



# STOP Cuts to Senior Services

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## Rate Cut Jeopardizes Nursing Home Safety Reforms

Last year, the Illinois legislature passed Senate Bill 326 which increases staffing; provides more care for the mentally ill; requires more nursing home oversight; and segregates violent residents. The 6 percent rate cut will put the implementation of these important safety measures in danger.

Senate Bill 326 was a joint effort on the part of providers, caregivers, advocates, legislators and state agencies to upgrade the standards for safe and quality nursing home care. The 6 percent rate cut eliminates funding for the following reforms:

- **Increased staffing** – The recent provider tax and full funding of the MDS reimbursement system made the hiring on new staff possible, as called for in the reform legislation. Now, with the 6 percent rate cut, providers are uncertain how the increased staffing requirements will be funded.
- **More care for the the mentally ill** – Senate Bill 326 called for higher standards for facilities that treat mentally ill residents, including enhanced resident assessments; treatment and behavioral plans; training and consultation; and other key issues. The 6 percent rate cut eliminates funding for these higher standards.
- **More nursing home oversight** – Senate Bill 326 mandated the hiring of more surveyors, funded by the provider tax. The 6 percent rate cut eliminates funding for these surveyors.

### We Need Your Help!

Please undo the 6 percent rate cut to nursing home residents. We must protect the health and well-being of residents, and prevent 7,000 health care workers from losing their jobs.

### Budget Cut Endangers Seniors

- Health care services at risk
- Increased hospitalizations
- Fewer seniors going home
- \$70 million in federal funds lost
- Safety reforms endangered
- 7,000 jobs lost

- **Segregation of violent residents** – Senate Bill 326 mandated the establishment of specialized treatment units for violent nursing home residents. The 6 percent rate cut will place the establishment of these units on hold.

The nursing home provider tax provided a self-funding mechanism to support the measures in Senate Bill 326. The 6 percent rate cut undermines this funding and negates the hope for genuine reform, putting resident safety in danger. Please roll back this proposed cut.

