



# STOP Cuts to Nursing Home Care

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## Budget Cut Puts Respiratory Care Programs at Risk



*Doug Van Selow and his wife Norma*

### We Need Your Help!

Please undo the Medicaid 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.

Suffering from post-polio syndrome, former school counselor Doug Van Selow has faced a variety of health challenges throughout his life. About a year ago, Doug contracted pneumonia and ended up needing a tracheostomy tube and depending on a ventilator to breathe. After a series of stays at hospitals and extended care centers, Doug came to Maple Ridge Care Centre in Lincoln, Illinois, to receive expert respiratory treatment in hopes of being able to be weaned off his ventilator and breathe independently again.

Maple Ridge's team of highly-trained and caring professionals worked diligently with Doug to help him achieve his goals. "Using special settings on the ventilator machine, we had Doug slowly work on specialized breathing exercises to build up the musculature surrounding his lungs and enable him to breathe on his own," said Cyndi Vest, certified respiratory therapist/respiratory care practitioner.

Slowly but surely, Doug was able to rely on his lungs more and depend less on the ventilator. The team helped Doug's respiratory system become much stronger, and as a result, he is now able to completely breathe on his own during the day, only relying on the ventilator at night.

Currently, the dedicated team at Maple Ridge is working with Doug to wean him off the ventilator completely, build up his lungs so that his trach tube can be removed and only use a BiPAP machine at night. "We are all committed to helping Doug achieve his goal of returning home with his wife, Norma, and enjoying a more independent life," said Christy Bahn, director of nursing. Given Doug's determination, and the expertise and commitment to excellence of the Maple Ridge staff, that goal may very well become a reality.

### 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

The Medicaid rate cut to nursing homes will make it extremely difficult for facilities to provide respiratory care services to residents like Doug, putting their health and independence in danger. Please help us undo this cut to protect their care, independence and well-being.

