



STOP Cuts to Nursing Home Care

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Number 8

Budget Cut Puts Bariatric Care Programs in Danger



Respiratory Therapist Tammy Carter assists Raymond Ciger with his trach tube.

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.

Raymond Ciger was admitted to Ballard Rehabilitation in Des Plaines, Illinois from a hospital intensive care unit. He was extremely overweight with pneumonia, respiratory failure, and renal failure. He was on a respirator with a trach tube because he was not able to breathe on his own. "I was convinced I would be spending the rest of my life in a nursing home and never return home again," Raymond said.

The dedicated team of caring professionals at Ballard started working with Raymond to attain his goal of returning home. Because of the outstanding services available at Ballard, he is very close to achieving this goal. All he has left to do is accomplish going up and down stairs. Since his house has several stairs with the bedroom on the upper level, he will need to meet this last goal before discharge.

Through a variety of interventions, Raymond received the quality care he needed. By following a controlled diet with staff encouragement, Raymond has already lost 100 pounds, well on his way to reaching his ideal weight. He receives dialysis at Ballard in the facility's dialysis unit. Because Ballard has round-the-clock respiratory therapists, he has been able to be weaned from the ventilator, is breathing on his own and will eventually have the trach tube removed.

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

Raymond was not able to walk when he came to Ballard for rehab. He now gets out of bed at least three times a day and receives therapy daily from professional staff. He can now walk 30-40 feet. "I never thought I would be able to achieve my goals but the staff at Ballard has been wonderful. They have transformed my life," Ciger said.

"Through our care, Raymond will most likely be able to return to the community rather than spend his life in a nursing home. Ultimately, our care will be saving taxpayer money, because he will not require long term care services," said Susan Ahlgren, administrator. The Medicaid rate cut to Illinois nursing homes will prevent many people like Raymond from recovering from illness and injury and returning to their homes. Please roll back this cut.

