

BETTER CARE NOW

I SUPPORT
NURSING HOME
SAFE STAFFING

Guidance on Writing a Comment

CAMPAIGN MISSION

The Biden administration recently released a regulatory initiative that would, if finalized, significantly improve working conditions and the quality of care in nursing homes. This historic initiative would establish a long-overdue national minimum staffing standard for nursing home facilities that participate in Medicare and Medicaid.

It's a good first start, but corporations in the nursing home industry are mobilizing to ensure that this rule is not finalized. For decades, they have resisted a staffing standard to protect their own bottom line—prioritizing profits over the health and safety of residents and workers. We have to make our voices heard, and in order to win this fight, we need your help.

Please submit a comment by Nov. 6, 2023, to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We need HHS to know that you support safe staffing in nursing homes.

WHY YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR STORY

A strong show of support from working people and families will ensure that this rule is finalized. We need to show there is more support for improving nursing home quality than there is for the status quo.

Over the next three decades, the number of workers and families who will need high-quality nursing home care will only continue to grow. If you or someone you know has been impacted by nursing homes, then you have a story. If you want to see improvements in how care workers are treated, HHS needs to hear from you.

Take Action Now!



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HOW TO WRITE A COMMENT

Below are some examples of comments that can be submitted in support of the rule. You should make sure your comment focuses on how improved staffing has affected, or might affect, you or a family member. Your personal experience has a powerful effect on policymakers. You should provide specific examples and details if possible and any information that strengthens our call for a minimum staffing standard.

If you do not have a personal experience with nursing homes or know someone who does, you can discuss your own hopes for getting older, or why you care about the growing crisis in care for families in your community or in your workplace.

The comments can be of any length and word count, but always remember to:

- Use your own words.
- Make sure to say that **working families need a forceful and the strongest possible rule on staffing.**
- Be specific about how the lack of staff creates safety issues.

Example 1:

I've been a nursing home CNA since 1993, and my residents are my family. I've had too many times when insufficient staff has created a dangerous environment to live in. With enough staff, we could provide physical support and care where needed. We could make sure to follow procedures on safety. We could make sure residents are well taken care of. That's why I support stronger nursing home staffing standards.

Example 2:

I am deeply concerned about health care in this country and that includes the staffing crisis in our nation's nursing homes. I worry that when the time comes, if I need care—even for just a few weeks—there won't be enough care workers. Federal regulations around safe staffing are long overdue, and it's time we hold nursing homes accountable for their treatment of staff and residents. It's time for HHS to strengthen the proposed nursing home staffing standards.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT

Please visit [BetterCareNow.us](https://www.bettercarenow.us) to share your story and submit a comment!