

IN THE NEWS

News for LTC Professionals
in 100 Words-or-Less

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THEY SAID IT

"As states respond to OBBB-created craters in their budgets due to reduced federal Medicaid contributions, the suffering will begin"

Katie Smith Sloan, President and CEO of Leading Age

"We are facing the collision of two policies here that could further erode staffing in nursing homes and present health outcome challenges"

Eric Roberts, associate professor of internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania commenting on proposed Medicaid cuts and the Trump immigration policy

"He (a federal judge) has made it clear that the rights Congress established through the Medicaid Act and the Nursing Home Reform Act are critically important rights, and Texas has systematically violated those rights"

Steven Schwartz, special counsel from the Center for Public Representation, lauding a judge's ruling that Texas has illegally housed MRDD people in nursing homes

Private Equity Deal Under CA Microscope

On June 23, 2025, California's Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) issued a determination that a transaction submitted by Covenant Care California and its subsidiaries will be subject to a Cost and Market Review (CMIR), marking the first time that a CMIR has been required.

The Covenant Care transaction involves the \$25,000,000 transfer of the assets and operations of 22 SNFs to subsidiaries of International Equity Partners, Spyglass Healthcare, Links Healthcare Group, and The Ensign Group. Only three of the 22 will be examined.

The action is considered oversight of private equity deals in California.

Husch Blackwell, 06/30/2025

Threats From Prez & GOP Imperil SNFs & Foreign-Borns

The long-term health care industry is facing a double whammy from President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigrants and the GOP's proposals to reduce Medicaid spending.

The industry is highly dependent on foreign workers: More than 800,000 immigrants and naturalized citizens comprise 28% of direct care employees at home care agencies, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other long-term care companies.

But in January, the Trump administration rescinded former President Joe Biden's 2021 policy that protected health care facilities from ICE raids. The administration's broad immigration crackdown threatens to drastically reduce the number of current and future workers for the industry.

KFF Health News, 06/26/2025

Changes to Five-Star A Dealmaker's Delight

Both nursing home buyers and sellers may be rewarded by recently announced changes to the Care Compare nursing home ratings website.

The updates should result in more accurate and faster dealmaking.

CMS recently said it would remove third-cycle health inspections from providers' ratings, making them more timely and more reflective of the current staff's work.

The agency also announced that it would post survey deficiencies immediately rather than waiting 90 days under the current policy.

Some of the most favorable impacts of the CMS changes might be for those who own turnaround facilities or want to acquire them.

McKnight's, 06/25/2025

COVID-19, 07/03/2025

World Total Cases
778,240,931

World Total Deaths
7,097,572

U.S. Total Deaths
1,224,819

World Health Organization

ONE COLUMN

One Big Beautiful Bill Is Now the Law of the Land

Reaction to the House passing the White House-driven "Big Beautiful" budget bill Thursday afternoon came fast and mostly furious from long-term care stakeholders.

After a lengthy overnight session of persuasion and arm-twisting of about a dozen Republican holdouts, the measure passed 218-214, with just two GOP members joining all Democrats in opposing the package.

The "One Big Beautiful Bill – the official name of the legislation – was into law by President Trump, who led the cheerleading and cajoling throughout for it.

The budget will pay for tax cuts and increased defense and immigration reform spending while cutting \$1 trillion in healthcare and food assistance, most of it coming out of Medicaid, the No. 1 payor of US nursing home services. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimated the new law will drive national debt up by \$3.3 trillion by 2035.

"This legislation deals a significant blow to a core element of our country's social safety net: Medicaid. The consequences will not be pretty," seethed LeadingAge CEO Katie Smith Sloan. "Medicare payments to providers may be reduced by 4% for the next 10 years."

Sloan's counterpart at the American Health Care Association, the nation's biggest nursing home association, withheld direct criticism of the administration or lawmakers, who authorized what has been described as the biggest transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich in US history.

Clif Porter, CEO of the American Health Care Association referred to lawmakers' "difficult decisions to find savings," crediting Congress with recognizing nursing home residents "need to be protected."

"The reality remains that Medicaid is underfunded, and there are limited resources available to meet the growing demand for care.

McKnight's, 07/04/2025