

NJ Nursing Home Residents United

On Feb. 2, 2026, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rescinded rules that required nursing homes to provide 3.48 hours of nursing care per resident per day and have a registered nurse on-site 24 hours a day. Experts had estimated that the former requirements would save thousands of lives every year and foster a better quality of life for nursing home residents nationwide. NJ Nursing Home Residents United, a group of resident leaders from across New Jersey, submitted the following comments opposing the rule change.

WE LIVE THE EXPERIENCE of already low nursing staff. We know the consequences. We are neglected and see our friends neglected and even die needlessly!

LESS RNs WORKING is a bad idea! RNs are highly trained for critical, life-saving care. They're more experienced to handle emergencies and direct others simultaneously. We need them in our facilities 24 hours a day.

WE LIVE IN DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES, with unsupervised violent residents. Punches are thrown, arms twisted, wheelchairs are hurled out of control! The staff doesn't intervene.

MORE THAN THAT there are violent killings – resident-on-resident!

LESS CNAs promotes more BEDSIDE CALL BELLS UNANSWERED FOR MANY HOURS, especially overnight. Most full-time CNAs are working double shifts – 16 hours with little sleep – so they're sleeping on the job. Exhausted staff are more likely to neglect and abuse the difficult residents to care for - especially if they don't have family/friends around.

We do have the right to get out of bed and dressed when we want. Yet some residents, against their will, are in bed 16 hours and only up for 8 hours. They don't get diapers changed for up to 10 hours. They are fed 3 meals, but not changed.

WHY ARE THEY SLEEPING ON THE JOB? Low wages force them to work long hours and the nursing homes don't want to pay higher wages.

WHY ISN'T THERE A LARGER POOL OF EMPLOYABLE CNAs? Nursing homes aren't making this a lucrative career! There are more and more owners – 68% - taking taxpayers' Medicaid money and **profiteering**. They're not taking care of us with good food, supplies, or enough staffing in any department!

SOLUTION: Don't roll back the standards, further jeopardizing our lives, but enforce strict adherence and the industry will be forced to raise wages!

RESIDENTS LIVE IN FEAR – What if I get sick, get neglected and lose my life needlessly? Am I next to die prematurely?

PLEASE HELP US!

NJ Nursing Home Residents United