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Long Term Care Profession Applauds Gang of Eight Senators for Immigration Reform Efforts

Senators Address Workforce Shortages through Temporary Worker Program

Washington, DC - The American Health Care Association (AHCA) today praised efforts by the Gang of Eight – a bipartisan group of Senators – for their leadership in working towards a comprehensive immigration reform bill. The bill includes a temporary worker program, which, if made into law, would help ease workforce shortages in the long term and post-acute care profession.

“We are pleased that these Senators are checking party labels and old ideas at the door in the name of America’s need for comprehensive immigration reform,” said Mark Parkinson, President and CEO of AHCA. “America is a stronger nation because of the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of millions of immigrants. Now we need reasonable and realistic reform that helps us ensure that the chronic staffing problem in our long term care facilities does not become a national health care catastrophe.”

America’s long term and post-acute care profession in particular is straining due to a shortage of mid-level, skilled caregivers necessary to care for a rapidly aging population. Last month in its [testimony](#) before a House subcommittee, AHCA offered support for measures that expand access to direct caregivers for America’s seniors and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“Long term and post-acute care facilities nationwide are ready, willing, and able to offer tens of thousands of good paying jobs that, if filled, will help continue improving the quality of seniors’ care in nursing facilities,” concluded Parkinson. “While we are still in the process of reviewing the content of the proposed legislation, we are supportive of its guest worker program.”

Read more about AHCA’s guiding principles for immigration reform [here](#).

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ABOUT AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represent more than 11,000 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit www.ahca.org or www.ncal.org.