



National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs

February 20, 2008

The Honorable Herb Kohl, Chairman
Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

The National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP) strongly supports the Nursing Home Transparency and Improvement Act of 2008. This legislation is the first comprehensive national nursing home reform bill since the Nursing Home Reform Act was passed two decades ago. As advocates for nursing home residents in each state and territory, we deeply appreciate the work you and Senator Grassley have put into making nursing home reform a priority and for introducing this bill.

Consumers often face difficulty deciphering the ownership of nursing homes. Nursing home residents and their families need this information to advocate for improvements in care and to make wise long-term care choices. Your bill would institute new disclosure, accountability, and oversight requirements over nursing home owners and operators, including chains; improve public information about nursing homes' staffing and quality; strengthen resident and family protections; and implement improvements in enforcement recommended by the Government Accountability Office and strongly supported by consumer advocates. It has grown increasingly hard for families and even government agencies to identify who is ultimately accountable for the quality of care in nursing facilities in their states and communities. Corporations – including chains taken over by large, multinational private equity groups – are turning over operation of their facilities to multiple and separate entities, thus insulating themselves from responsibility for care in facilities from which they are taking large profits. Your bill addresses this critical problem while improving enforcement and the ability of residents and families to address problems through a complaint process.

NASOP looks forward to working with you to pass the Nursing Home Transparency and Improvement Act this year.

Best regards,

Beverly Laubert
President

Beverly L. Laubert, NASOP President
Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
50 W. Broad Street, 9th Floor Columbus, OH 43215-3363
Phone (800) 282-1206 FAX (614) 644-5201
E-mail blaubert@age.state.oh.us



National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs

February 20, 2008

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

The National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP) strongly supports the Nursing Home Transparency and Improvement Act of 2008. This legislation is the first comprehensive national nursing home reform bill since the Nursing Home Reform Act was passed two decades ago. As advocates for nursing home residents in each state and territory, we deeply appreciate the work you and Senator Kohl have put into making nursing home reform a priority and for introducing this bill.

Consumers often face difficulty deciphering the ownership of nursing homes. Nursing home residents and their families need this information to advocate for improvements in care and to make wise long-term care choices. Your bill would institute new disclosure, accountability, and oversight requirements over nursing home owners and operators, including chains; improve public information about nursing homes' staffing and quality; strengthen resident and family protections; and implement improvements in enforcement recommended by the Government Accountability Office and strongly supported by consumer advocates. It has grown increasingly hard for families and even government agencies to identify who is ultimately accountable for the quality of care in nursing facilities in their states and communities. Corporations – including chains taken over by large, multinational private equity groups – are turning over operation of their facilities to multiple and separate entities, thus insulating themselves from responsibility for care in facilities from which they are taking large profits. Your bill addresses this critical problem while improving enforcement and the ability of residents and families to address problems through a complaint process.

NASOP looks forward to working with you to pass the Nursing Home Transparency and Improvement Act this year.

Best regards,

Beverley Laubert
President

Beverley L. Laubert, NASOP President
Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
50 W. Broad Street, 9th Floor Columbus, OH 43215-3363
Phone (800) 282-1206 FAX (614) 644-5201
E-mail blaubert@age.state.oh.us



National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs

Beverly L. Laubert, NASOP President
Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
50 W. Broad Street, 9th Floor Columbus, OH 43215-3363
Phone (800) 282-1206 FAX (614) 644-5201
E-mail blaubert@age.state.oh.us