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# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PHCA: Hard Work of Senator Specter, Governor Rendell Prompts Release of Federal Funds to Protect PA's Frail, Elderly, Disabled**

*Nursing Home Assessment to Help Maintain Seniors' Access to Quality Long Term Care, Protect Jobs of Key Direct Care Workers, Prevent Possible Facility Closures*

**Philadelphia, PA** – The Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) today applauded the persistent efforts of U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and Governor Edward G. Rendell in ensuring the release from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of over \$1 billion over four years to protect the care and well being of the Commonwealth's frail, elderly and disabled residing in nursing homes.

“We have worked long and hard with Senator Specter and the Rendell Administration to help ensure Pennsylvania's nursing home assessment plan is approved by CMS, and seniors can rest assured their access to quality care will be maintained,” stated Alan G. Rosenbloom, President and CEO of PHCA.

“This excellent holiday news is a prime example of how our federal and state public officials can work successfully together to protect the health of our vulnerable seniors and the jobs of our dedicated caregivers. We thank Senator Specter and Governor Rendell – and they are to be commended for their efforts.”

The federal funds to be made available from the nursing home assessment will help ensure the vitality of the Commonwealth's nursing home facilities, which currently provide care for 70,000 Medicaid beneficiaries annually and employ an estimated 91,000 workers.

“These funds are needed to ensure our caregivers can provide high quality nursing home care and to help ensure we have the staff necessary to do so,” continued Rosenbloom. “Because staffing has a direct impact on quality, the release of these resources will strengthen and complement the solid efforts being made by providers to improve care quality in Pennsylvania's nursing homes.”

As PHCA analyzes more specific details of this agreement in the coming days, additional information relating to its impact in regional and major metro areas will be made available.

*PHCA is a statewide membership services organization representing approximately 300 long term care and senior service providers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information about PHCA is available by calling 717-221-1800 or visiting [www.phca.org](http://www.phca.org).*

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