

*SB 704 reported out of committee news release  
Wednesday, April 25, 2007*

**PHCA Praises Senate Public Health Committee for Reporting-Out Key Assisted Living Bill**  
*Senators Erickson, Vance Help Advance Assisted Living Licensure Bill to Expand Consumer Choice,  
More Clearly Defines Differences Between Long Term Care Settings*

**Harrisburg, PA** – The Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) today praised the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee for reporting out new assisted living licensure legislation introduced by Sen. Pat Vance (R-Cumberland/York), SB 704, designed to expand consumers' choice of care settings in the long term care marketplace, and to more clearly define and delineate the differences between them.

“We commend the Committee for reporting out Senator Vance’s assisted living bill today, and we thank Senator Vance and Committee Chairman Ted Erickson for their leadership in helping to move this vital legislation forward,” said Stuart H. Shapiro, M.D., President and CEO of PHCA. “Passage of SB 704 would accomplish the important public objective of expanding consumers’ care options in Pennsylvania’s growing long term care marketplace, and necessarily clarify and better-define the type and level of services one can expect in each care setting. PHCA will continue to work in the weeks ahead to ensure the bill becomes law.”

Under current law, facilities offering long term care services are either licensed as personal care homes or nursing homes. With few exceptions, personal care homes are permitted to admit residents who require personal care services, but not health care services. Nursing homes, however, serve the other end of the spectrum and provide care for the most vulnerable of the population. Sen. Vance’s bill would establish an entity called “assisted living” that would allow for a level of care between the two existing entities.

Dr. Shapiro said Sen. Vance’s bill is a strong example of “bi-partisan, intelligent, workable oversight that clearly benefits consumers,” and noted the legislation is consistent with and reflects PHCA’s global regulatory reform principles, which include the following:

- The Commonwealth’s seniors should be provided ample opportunities to age in the most appropriate place for them at each stage of their life;
- The services offered by each provider type and in each location must be clearly defined to minimize confusion and frustration on the part of consumers and their families; and,
- Minimum standards for each provider type are absolutely essential and necessary to ensure the safety and protection of consumers and employees dedicated to providing services.

“Passage of Senator Vance’s bill is among PHCA’s most important legislative priorities, and we intend to work collaboratively with lawmakers, consumer organizations, family members and all others who share our goal of ensuring seniors receive the best care quality available throughout a rapidly evolving, increasingly complex care continuum. The fact that this legislation has bi-partisan support with 33 co-sponsors is a testament to the quality of the legislation.” concluded Dr. Shapiro.

*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).*