



Congressman Guy Reschenthaler
531 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2020

Congressman Reschenthaler:

On behalf of Pennsylvania's long-term care providers, including our nearly 700 skilled nursing facilities and 1,200 assisted living communities and personal care homes, I write today to urge your support for liability protections as part of the next federal stimulus package for Pennsylvania's frontline workers and providers as they lead the fight against COVID-19.

The response to the COVID-19 epidemic has significantly altered the delivery of healthcare services across the commonwealth. No one knows this better than our long-term care providers, who have been at the epicenter of this epidemic and have fought every day to keep our most vulnerable citizens safe.

New guidance from the federal government, as well as our state Department of Health, is being released nearly every day. Shortages of personal protective equipment and testing supplies, as well as other critical resources, have resulted in skyrocketing costs. This ever-changing guidance, coupled with inadequate supplies, has raised concern about the potential liability exposure for providers and direct care workers in our long-term care facilities.

Already, predatory attorneys and law firms stationed both in and outside Pennsylvania have spent significant dollars to advertise against our healthcare workers – they've attacked our heroes and begun to prey on the fear and grief of those affected by COVID-19. Others have resorted to sending direct social media messages to those individuals who identify themselves as an employee at a long-term care facility or community.

In short, without liability protections for long-term care providers, we expect to see hundreds of frivolous lawsuits in Pennsylvania, resulting in millions of dollars in settlements, skyrocketing insurance costs and, ultimately, the downfall of this essential element of the long-term care continuum.

We urge you to take action and support a stimulus package that provides legal protections to Pennsylvania's long-term care providers and direct-care workers. They are making sacrifices every day to protect the residents entrusted to their care, and they shouldn't have to worry about the threat of impending lawsuits.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, I can be reached via email at zshamberg@phca.org or via phone at 717-221-7925.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Shamberg", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Zach Shamberg
President and CEO

Pennsylvania Health Care Association

315 N. 2nd St. | Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101 | 717-221-1800 | www.phca.org