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VIA EMAIL [letters@nytimes.com]

Editor, New York Times

Re: May 20 article "Why Is Mitch McConnell Protecting Nursing Homes?"

Dear Editor,

The article questions the selfless work of senior care providers and front line caregivers who put their health on the line daily to address unprecedented risks from COVID-19 faced by our nation's elders.

While sympathetic to the author's grief over his mother's death, I am dismayed by his suggestion that *lawyers* are being "scapegoated" to distract from government's failure to properly address this crisis.

Any government failure to provide sufficient COVID-19 testing and personal protective equipment affects senior living providers, their staffs, and residents most directly. Blaming the true heroes of this pandemic -- senior care providers and their staffs -- is misguided.

Senior care providers rigorously apply universally-accepted COVID precautions. As a result, less than two percent of senior living residents have tested positive -- a good record considering asymptomatic spread and the particular vulnerability of those over 80.

Several states (red and blue) have issued executive orders granting limited liability protection to senior care providers, but this is a national emergency and it is appropriate for Congress to act.



Paul Gordon
General Counsel, American Seniors Housing Association