

JUNE



Legislative Spotlight:

2022

Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act

ASHA has been working to advance important legislation that would expand veterans' access to assisted living services by carrying out a pilot program to assess the effectiveness of serving veterans in assisted living communities.

The Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act (S. 4169) was introduced on May 10th by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT), Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-KS), and U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA).

Specifically, S. 4169 would:

- Create a three-year pilot program to give veterans who are currently residing in nursing homes and other eligible veterans, the option to transfer into a Medicaid certified assisted living community.
- Include provisions regarding program criteria and locations, mandating minimum rural locations and high need areas.
- Require assisted living communities be Medicaid certified, i.e., those communities that participate in the Medicaid Waiver program would be eligible.
- Cover room and board (unlike the Medicaid waiver program), therefore resulting in a payment that is higher than home care and yet lower than nursing homes, resulting in cost savings.
- Identify several reporting obligations including a recommendation to extend program.

This legislation is a commonsense, cost efficient and compassionate effort to allow veterans to live in a community that best suits them. It presents our industry with a great opportunity to qualify (care received) and quantify (savings to the VA) the benefits of assisted living and create more awareness among policymakers about our value proposition. ASHA has been actively working to secure co-sponsors in the Senate and to advance the legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives. ASHA has activated its grassroots advocacy program to support efforts in seeking co-sponsors.



Seniors Housing PAC Supports Events for Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)

ASHA's Seniors Housing PAC has been actively supporting members of Congress by hosting fundraisers across the country and in Washington, DC. These events are a great way to connect with elected officials and educate them on the needs of the senior living industry.

ASHA members Bill and Bob Thomas (Senior Star) recently hosted an event in Tulsa, OK for Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) that the Seniors Housing PAC co-hosted.

ASHA President David Schless attended the event and reports that it was extremely successful both in terms of the dollars raised for Senator Murkowski and the discussions held over several hours.

This meeting lent itself to a meaningful, in-depth dialogue about our industry and the vital role senior living provides to America's seniors, including those with Alzheimer's and

America's veterans. ASHA's VP of Government Affairs Jeanne McGlynn Delgado also attended an event the night before with Senator Murkowski in Washington, DC, so the timing of the event could not have been better to emphasize the priorities of senior living.

ASHA's SH PAC, along with Argentum's Silver PAC, also recently hosted a fundraiser for Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) in Chicago. Several Chicago-based leaders supported and attended this event where we had an engaging and thoughtful discussion with the Senator about the issues facing the industry including the workforce shortage. Senator Durbin has been a steadfast champion of immigration reform in the Senate and strongly believes that immigration reform is not only a means of meeting the workforce needs, but will also strengthen the economy and protect the border.



Senator Lisa Murkowski and ASHA President David Schless



Attendees (L-R): John Atkinson, Marsh; Jeanne McGlynn Delgado, ASHA; Pat Lee, Senior Lifestyle; Tara Cope, Vi Living; Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL); Peter Smith, Enlivant; Erin Donaldson, LCS; Paul Williams, Argentum; Angela Schnepf, Leading Age Illinois; Bob Havens, Brookdale Senior Living

ASHA's Public Policy Committee serves as the steering committee for the Seniors Housing Political Action Committee.

Disbursements to the campaigns of federal candidates are made according to a broad strategy that includes supporting Federal candidates who are knowledgeable, supportive, and key to the advancement of public policy that impacts the seniors housing industry. A complete listing of SH PAC contributions to Members of Congress will be highlighted in the next edition of the *Capitol Connection*.

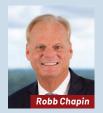
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Senior Star

Current 2022 Chairman's Circle Level Contributors

*as of June 10, 2022

PREMIER \$5,000

Ken Assiran Capital Health Group John Atkinson Marsh Thilo Best Longview Senior Housing Colleen Blumenthal HealthTrust **Randy Bufford** Trilogy Health Services John Cobb Ventas **Donny Edwards** Sagora Senior Living **David Freshwater** Watermark Retirement Communities Jerry Frumm Senior Lifestyle Jim Gray Bridgewood Property Company Salem Equity Jim Hands **Richard Hutchinson** Discovery Senior Living Joshua Jennings Cedarhurst Senior Living Bill Kaplan Senior Lifestyle Lynne Katzmann Juniper Communities Aaron Koelsch **Koelsch Communities** Rob Mercer Cedarbrook Senior Living

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Housing Association

SafelyYou

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Mike McMillen

The ABC's of the Seniors Housing PAC

- Actively Engage
- Build Relationships
- Continually Educate

The Seniors Housing PAC is actively engaged in building relationships and continually educating Members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats. The Seniors Housing PAC gives ASHA the unique opportunity to make its voice heard in Congress on key policy priorities.

Eight 2022 Senate Races to Watch

Arizona: Senator Mark Kelly (D)

I Georgia: Senator Raphael Warnock (D)

Nevada: Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D)

New Hampshire: Senator Maggie Hassan (D)

North Carolina: Open Seat (Senator Richard Burr (R) Retiring)

Ohio: Open Seat (Senator Rob Portman (R) Retiring)

Pennsylvania: Open Seat (Senator Pat Toomey (R) Retiring)

Wisconsin: Senator Ron Johnson (R)

2022 Midterm Elections Outlook

The 2022 midterm election cycle is in full swing with primary elections taking place around the country to determine the candidates for the November 8th general election. With less than six months until election day, here are some of the key factors to watch:

- Republicans will be on offense as they look to take control of the House, buttressed by Democratic retirements and President Biden's lagging approval ratings.
- In the Senate, a small number of closely contested races are likely to determine control of the upper chamber.
- Individual candidates will continue to be key, as each party faces internal crises over their identity and national parties work to boost candidates that can win in November.
- I Should control of Congress flip in 2022, expect a flurry of legislative activity during the "lame duck" session as Democrats try to clear the decks before the start of the 118th Congress.

2022 SH PAC Campaign Update

As of June 10, 2022, the SH PAC has received contributions and pledges from 159 individuals from 93 companies for a total of \$398,175. Contact Sheff Richey at sheff@ashaliving.org to make your 2022 SH PAC pledge.



2022 Chairman's Circle Event

Members who make a personal contribution of \$2,000 - \$5,000 to the Seniors Housing PAC in 2022 are eligible to attend the exclusive Chairman's Circle Event on November 2-3 in Sarasota, FL at the Ritz-Carlton. A special thank you to Alan Plush and Colleen Blumenthal of HealthTrust for their very generous support of this year's Chairman's Circle event.

For further information on any of the topics in this Capitol Connection, please contact:

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For access to all links referenced in this *Capitol Connection*, please login to the "Members Area" of the ASHA website (www.ashaliving.org)



To receive login credentials, contact Meghan Bertoni at Megs@ashaliving.org