Legislative Spotlight:

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](image1)

![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, LeadingAge Illinois; Bob Havens, Brookdale Senior Living](image2)

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.

2022 ASHA Public Policy Committee Members

![Jerry Finis](image3) - Pathway to Living 2022 Public Policy Committee Chair

![Ken Assiran](image4) - Capital Health Group

![Robb Chapin](image5) - Bridge Investment Group

![Donny Edwards](image6) - Sagora Senior Living 2022-23 SH PAC Chair

![Jerry Frumm](image7) - Senior Lifestyle

![Jeff Hettleman](image8) - Brightview Senior Living

![Lynne Katzmann](image9) - Juniper Communities

![Michelle Kelly](image10) - National Health Investors

![Sevy Petras](image11) - Priority Life Care

![Shannon Rusk](image12) - Oppidan

![Tim Sanders](image13) - Ventas

![Deidre Schonfeldt](image14) - Hanson Bridgett

![Christian Sweetser](image15) - Erickson Senior Living

![Bob Thomas](image16) - Senior Star
Current 2022 Chairman’s Circle Level Contributors*

**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  
  Vetas
- Donny Edwards  
  Sagora Senior Living
- David Freshwater  
  Watermark Retirement Communities
- Jerry Frumm  
  Senior Lifestyle
- Jim Gray  
  Bridgewood Property Company
- Jim Hands  
  Salem Equity
- Richard Hutchinson  
  Discovery Senior Living
- Joshua Jennings  
  Cedarhurst Senior Living
- Bill Kaplan  
  Senior Lifestyle
- Lynne Katsmann  
  Juniper Communities
- Aaron Koelsch  
  Koelsch Communities
- Bob Mercer  
  Cedarbrook Senior Living

**LEADERSHIP**

$2,000

$4,999

- Matt Alley  
  Senior Living Investment Brokerage
- Labinot Avdiu  
  Medication Management Partners
- Caryl Barnes  
  Bridge Investment Group
- Leigh Ann Barney  
  Trilogy Health Services
- Everett Benton  
  Stellar Senior Living
- Jeff Binder  
  Senior Living Investment Brokerage
- Charles Bissell  
  JLL
- Steve Blazejewski  
  PGIM Real Estate
- Jon Boba  
  Pearl Meyer
- Dave Boltano  
  Lument
- Matt Bork  
  Liberty Senior Living
- Marcus Breuer  
  Touchmark
- Lisa Brush  
  Blue Lotus Senior Living
- Dwayne Clark  
  Aegis Living
- Bradley Clousing  
  Senior Living Investment Brokerage
- Joe Daniels  
  Direct Supply
- Charles de Vilmorin  
  Linked Senior
- Corey Denman  
  Direct Supply
- Kirk Domescik  
  Duane Morris LLP
- Jason Dopoulous  
  White Oak Healthcare Finance
- Alexis Evanich  
  PointClickCare
- Julie Ferguson  
  Ryan Companies US, Inc.
- Jerry Finis  
  Pathway to Living
- Luke Gabay  
  PGIM Real Estate
- John Getchey  
  ReNew REIT
- Steve Gillingan  
  Senior Living Investment Brokerage
- Joel Goldman  
  Hanson Bridgett
- Paul Gordon  
  Hanson Bridgett
- David Harper  
  Capital One Healthcare Real Estate
- Judd Harper  
  The Arbor Company
- Donald Husi  
  Ziegler
- Bob Karn  
  Allegro Senior Living
- Alice Katz  
  The Vinca Group
- Michelle Kelly  
  National Health Investors
- Pam Kessler  
  LTC REIT
- Rodger Lederer  
  Marsh
- Ben Levesque  
  Cogir Management USA, Inc.
- Steve Levy  
  Senior Lifestyle
- Scott Lieber  
  Marsh
- Chip Long  
  OnShift
- Clint Main  
  LTC REIT
- Jeanne Mcglynn Delgado  
  American Seniors Housing Association
- Mike McMillen  
  SafelyYou

**CAPITOL CONNECTION**

**Michael Pokora**  
Marsh

**Cesar Quirino**  
Lifetone Link

**John Rios**  
Chicago Pacific Founders

**Greg Roderick**  
Frontier Management

**Anja Rogers**  
Senior Star

**Doug Schiffer**  
Allegro Senior Living

**Wendy Simpson**  
LTC REIT

**Josh Stevens**  
Harbor Point Capital

**Scott Stewart**  
Capitol Seniors Housing

**Kathryn Sweeney**  
Blue Moon Capital Partners LP

**Bill Thomas**  
Senior Star

**Bob Thomas**  
Senior Star

**Donald Thompson**  
Senior Living Communities

**Dale Watchowski**  
American House

**Matthew Whitlock**  
Berkshire Residential Investments

**Margaret Wyld**  
ProMatura Group

- Eric Mendelsohn  
  National Health Investors
- Joel Mendes  
  JLL
- Brian Morgan  
  Primrose Retirement Communities
- George Netscher  
  SafelyYou
- Max Newland  
  Kayne Anderson Real Estate Advisors
- Earl Parker  
  Commonwealth Senior Living
- Kevin Pascoe  
  National Health Investors
- Wick Peterson  
  Senior Resource Group
- Sevy Petras  
  Priority Life Care
- Alan Plush  
  HealthTrust
- Jason Punzel  
  Senior Living Investment Brokerage
- Will Purvis  
  Liberty Senior Living
- Rebecca Randolph  
  Brinkmann Constructors
- Jeff Ringwald  
  Walker & Dunlop
- MJ Ritschel  
  Kisco Senior Living
- Tim Robeson  
  PGIM Real Estate
- Justin Robins  
  Senior Lifestyle
- Shannon Rusk  
  Oppidan
- Melissa Russell  
  Wells Fargo
- Matt Ryan  
  Houlihan Lokey
- Ryan Saul  
  Senior Living Investment Brokerage
- Bryan Schachter  
  Watermark Retirement Communities
- Dana Scheppmann  
  PGIM Real Estate
- Dave Schless  
  American Seniors Housing Association
- Jason Schreiber  
  PNC Real Estate
- Bill Scioritino  
  Discovery Senior Living
- Bill Shorten  
  Cascade Living Group
- Toby Siebert  
  Senior Living Investment Brokerage
- Art Sons  
  Marsh
- Todd Stone  
  Ray Stone Inc.
- Rick Swartz  
  Cushman & Wakefield
- Christian Sweetser  
  Erickson Senior Living
- Chris Taylor  
  Capital One Healthcare Real Estate
- Ben Thompson  
  Senior Living Communities
- Josh Thompson  
  Senior Living Communities
- Chris Urban  
  Ambrose Urban Capital Group, Inc.
- Scott Wallace  
  Marsh
- Joe Weisenburger  
  LCS
- Steve Wertman  
  Cedarhurst Senior Living
- Aron Will  
  CBRE Capital Markets
- Mike Williams  
  English Meadows Senior Living
- John Yedinak  
  Senior Housing News
- Jason Zuccari  
  Hamilton Insurance

*as of June 10, 2022
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)
- 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.
- 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