



November 21, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

We write to urge you to move ahead in passing much needed immigration legislation that works for Americans, immigrants, and the U.S. business industries who are in desperate need of workers such as the long-term care industry. Please take this opportunity during the lame duck session to address the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, Temporary Protected Status Program (TPS) and other essential worker reforms that would go a long way to mitigate these shortages while providing clarity and humanitarian aid to those in need.

The American Senior Housing Association (ASHA) is a national organization of over 500 companies involved in the operation, development, investment, and financing of the entire spectrum of seniors housing – independent living, assisted living, memory care, and Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs). Our members are on the front lines when it comes to serving older adults in need of care and supportive services, while promoting wellbeing and social interaction. The pandemic has exacerbated the already challenged workforce environment. Left unresolved, this shortage will threaten the industry's ability to serve the needs of the aging population now and in the years ahead.

An estimated 10 million unfilled jobs in the U.S. in all industries calls for new workforce solutions. 10,000 people turn 65 every day and 70% of them are projected to need some level of long-term care. It is time to look beyond our borders and give immigration reform serious attention.

We understand the need to couple border security with legal immigration reform. We support efforts to address both challenges. However, there are thousands of people that are here in the U.S. awaiting worker authorization that can be put to work today. Therefore, in addition to legislative action, we urge you to seek administrative remedies to expedite work authorization documents for those who are currently eligible.

Without care providers, the U.S. cannot responsibly care for its seniors. We must look to foreign workers to fill some of these jobs so our seniors can age with the dignity they deserve. We look forward to working with you on these critically important issues.

Sincerely,

David Schless
President & CEO

