

Please consider writing your own, personalized message – the following letter should serve as an example to inspire you.

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure,

I am expressing my strong opposition to the proposed Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities. While I understand the intent behind these measures, I am deeply concerned about their potential adverse impact on rural communities, where access to quality healthcare resources is already limited.

Having worked in the long-term care sector for several years, I know firsthand how many providers struggle. Rural communities face unique challenges in healthcare delivery. Long-term care facilities in these areas often operate on razor-thin budgets, working to provide essential services to their residents. The imposition of rigid staffing requirements without commensurate financial support could push these facilities to the brink, potentially leading to closures.

The proposed minimum staffing standards may inadvertently exacerbate the critical shortage of healthcare providers in rural areas. Facilities in these communities often need help with recruitment and retention issues due to geographic isolation and a smaller pool of qualified candidates. Forcing them to meet specific staffing ratios without considering these challenges could result in a detrimental domino effect, leaving rural residents with even fewer options for long-term care.

I implore CMS to reevaluate the proposed rule, specifically focusing on rural communities. Rather than imposing a uniform approach, I recommend exploring flexible solutions that consider each facility's distinct circumstances, particularly those in rural areas, including increased Medicaid funding to support providers in hiring staff.

In conclusion, while I appreciate the goal of improving accountability and transparency within long-term care facilities, the current proposal may inadvertently harm rural communities by potentially leading to facility closures and exacerbating provider shortages. I urge CMS to collaborate with stakeholders to develop a policy that safeguards access to quality care for all, particularly those in rural areas.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I trust that CMS will carefully consider the potential impact on rural communities and make the necessary adjustments to ensure that this policy supports, rather than hinders, the healthcare needs of these underserved areas.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]