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Alliance Stands in Support of Passing the Minimum Wage Increase, Urges Senate to Pass the Bill

Washington, D.C. – The Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care today stood in support of the passage of legislation to increase the federal minimum wage and called upon the Senate to pass the bill quickly.

Appearing at a news conference with Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Representative George Miller (D-CA), Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Kindred Healthcare Executive Chairman Edward L. Kuntz, speaking on behalf of the Alliance, urged the Senate to move quickly on the minimum wage legislation.

“A number of factors are critical in achieving quality of care, including ensuring stable government funding for programs like Medicare and Medicaid,” said Mr. Kuntz. “But nothing is more important to providing high-quality patient and resident-centered care than making sure our caregivers are paid a fair wage.”

Alan Rosenbloom, President of the Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care said, “Many employees of Kindred Healthcare, like those of most Alliance member companies, already enjoy wages well above the federal minimum, in addition to benefits like subsidized health insurance. We are proud of our leadership in this area, and of the career opportunities that our companies provide our employees, many of whom are low-income and minority. We are proud to stand with Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Miller, Senator Schumer and Senator Stabenow in support of The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007.”

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The Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care is a coalition of 15 of the nation's largest skilled nursing providers who deliver care to hundreds of thousands of patients on a daily basis.