



For Immediate Release
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Children's Health Insurance Is Essential, but Cuts in Medicare Benefits for Nursing Home Care Jeopardize Quality

Statement from Alan Rosenbloom, President, Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care

WASHINGTON, DC – Alan Rosenbloom, President of Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care (“the Alliance”), issued the following statement today in the wake of the floor vote on H.R. 3162, the Children’s Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (the “CHAMP Act”):

“The Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care supports funding for State Children’s Health Insurance Program (‘CHIP’), though we strongly oppose the cuts in benefits for Medicare beneficiaries who need nursing home care. Americans should not have to choose between providing healthcare for vulnerable children and quality nursing home care for vulnerable seniors. If the CHAMP Act becomes law in its present form, it would have severe repercussions to Medicare beneficiaries, their care-givers and nursing homes across the country.

“H.R. 3162 slashes \$2.7 billion in Medicare nursing home benefits over the next five years and \$6.5 billion over the next decade. History shows that when Medicare funding is stable quality improves, but when Medicare funding is unstable, quality is at risk. Nursing homes have dramatically improved quality in recent years, but these cuts would halt and even reverse those quality improvements. If the CHAMP Act becomes law, the average daily Medicare payment for nursing home care in 2008 would be only slightly above the daily payment rate of a decade ago, driving overall operating margins dangerously close to zero. This would force nursing homes to make hard choices. By some estimates, as many as two full-time nursing professionals at each and every nursing home could be at risk of losing their jobs.

“Again, the Alliance commends the congressional efforts to ensure that vulnerable children have health insurance. We should not, however, achieve this worthwhile goal by presenting the nation with a false choice between funding health insurance for children or funding nursing home care for seniors. America deserves a better solution.”

The Alliance continues its intensive TV and print ad campaign reinforcing the importance of healthcare for both seniors and children. Copy and details are available [here](#).

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The Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care (www.aqnhc.org) is a coalition of 16 of the nation’s largest skilled nursing providers who deliver care to hundreds of thousands of patients on a daily basis.