



# Seniors and Workers for Quality

*A Coalition of Caregivers and Organizations who  
Represent the People at the Heart of Long-Term Care*

## **The Risky Business of Repealing Nursing Home Rate Equalization**

*Seniors and Workers for Quality asks you to maintain Minnesota's rate equalization law. The law is fundamental to protecting nursing home consumers. And repealing the law isn't the answer...*

### **Don't buy the claim that repeal will save nursing homes from closing.**

*Nursing homes are closing all over states with "market" rates. From Toledo to Tuscaloosa, from East Coast to West, unregulated private pay rates are not saving the homes, jobs, or access to care.  
<http://www.nursingjobs.org/blog/nursing-home-closures-increasing-no-coverage-and-no-comment.htm>*

### **Don't buy the claim that repeal will provide better care for all residents.**

*Other states have a two-tiered system of Medicaid and private homes. Homes with predominantly Medicaid residents have fewer nurses and more health-related deficiencies. (Mor et. al. The Milbank Quarterly, Vol. 82, No 2 (2004), pp 227-256.)*

### **Don't buy the claim that private pay residents can handle a higher rate without exhausting their assets.**

*Just compare Minnesota's average daily private pay of \$156 with Wisconsin's \$198 or Massachusetts' \$296 or Connecticut's \$345. Spending twice as much a day will land you at MA eligibility twice as fast.*

### **Don't buy the claim that federal law is enough to prevent discrimination in admission and discharge.**

*National long-term care ombudsman data tally cases of discrimination in admission due to Medicaid (MA) status. [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/Elder\\_Rights/Ombudsman/National\\_State\\_Data/2008/Index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/Ombudsman/National_State_Data/2008/Index.aspx)  
What kinds of discrimination?*

- *The facility says its MA quota has been met and refuses to put the applicant on a waiting list.*
- *The facility suggests that admission may be helped if the applicant can be private pay for a time.*
- *The facility informs the family that when private pay funds are exhausted, the resident will be transferred to a different wing.*

### **Don't buy the claim that private pay residents cannot purchase "extras" to personalize their care.**

*Under current Minnesota law, nursing homes can market special services, and people who want them can buy them. (Minn.Stat.256B.48, Subd. 1).*



### **Any one of us may someday need Medical Assistance for our long-term care needs.**

*It may be easy to imagine the "private pay" resident as a person of means and the "MA client" as different. But an "MA client," for the most part, is a resident with a chronic disease, like dementia, who has paid privately at home, in Assisted Living and in the nursing home until their life savings are all gone.*

*Please don't shortchange nursing home residents, their families, and workers by repealing the RE law.*

The mission of the Seniors and Workers for Quality Coalition is to improve the quality of long-term care for those who depend on it and those who provide it. For more information, contact Sherri Knuth, [sherri@grasstops.inc](mailto:sherri@grasstops.inc) or 651-428-1759.