



# COMMITTEE *on* FINANCE

\* \* \* *Chairman Chuck Grassley*

## EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR NURSING HOMES AND ELDER JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 2020

**Providing Personal Protective Equipment and COVID-19 Testing in Nursing Homes.** Ensures that a portion of any payments received or Federal relief funds made available on or after July 1, 2020, for responding to the COVID-19 emergency period, be devoted personal protective equipment and COVID-19 diagnostic testing in long-term care facilities at levels determined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), FEMA/HHS.

**Promoting Transparency about COVID-19-Related Cases and Fatalities, and Staffing Levels in Nursing Homes.** Confirms that nursing homes participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs must continue to report staffing information, based on payroll and other auditable data, during the emergency period. Also ensures that nursing homes must report all cases and all fatalities for the entire 2020 calendar year to the CDC.

**Establishing Strike Teams.** Ensures that a portion of any payments received or Federal relief funds made available on or after July 1, 2020, for responding to the COVID-19 emergency period must be devoted to statewide or regional strike teams that can promptly respond to COVID-19-related crises in nursing homes that are overwhelmed by the pandemic.

**Promoting Identification and Reporting of Potential Abuse and Neglect in Long-Term Care Facilities.** Calls for development of a comprehensive list of emergency room diagnosis codes that point to potential physical or sexual abuse or neglect of nursing home residents. Also requires improvements in the system by which suspected abuse and neglect cases are reported to the authorities by state survey agency personnel.

**Promoting Televisitation for Nursing Home Residents.** Calls on HHS to ensure that residents of nursing homes have reasonable access to the Internet in order to increase accessibility to televisitation, so that nursing home and assisted living facility residents can communicate with family and friends.

**Upgrading Nursing Home Compare and the Five-Star Rating System.** Calls for review and upgrade of HHS's Five-Star Quality Rating System, to better measure and publicly report the quality of nursing homes. Also makes \$20 million available from Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for this purpose.

**Enhancing Federal oversight of nursing homes participating in Medicare or Medicaid.** Codifies the new HHS policy that a list of underperforming nursing homes must be posted online.

**Continuing funding for Elder Justice Act of 2010 programs.** Continues funding for selected programs that were established by the original Elder Justice Act, at previously authorized levels, adjusted for inflation.

**Increasing Resources to Investigate Elder Abuse And Neglect and Extend Services to Victims.** Provides that \$60 million of any new emergency funding appropriated by Congress for States and Tribes will be distributed to adult protective services programs across the country.

**Protecting Americans with Dementia.** Ensures that criminal justice personnel will receive specialized training on how to interact with witnesses in elder abuse cases who have dementia. Also promotes accountability of court-appointed guardians by expanding Federal demonstration grants to States.

**Reducing Racial Disparities.** Calls for HHS Secretary to convene a task force to make recommendations for reducing racial disparities in long-term care facilities.

**Achieving Savings in Health Care Programs.** Ensures HHS Secretary will collaborate with Attorney General when health care providers prescribe a controlled substance in violation of Controlled Substances Act.

