



10/17/2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (IFC@lcb.state.nv.us)

Nevada Legislature - Interim Finance Committee
C/O Fiscal Analysis Division
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: October 20th IFC Meeting – Support for Agenda Item #91 – Assisted Living Facility and Nursing Facility Workforce Initiative

Interim Finance Committee Members,

My name is Lisa Meyer, I am the Administrator at Marquis Plaza Regency in Las Vegas, NV. We are one of the largest facilities in the Las Vegas area, licensed for 188 beds. During the last 2 ½ years COVID has brought a significant toll on our facility, specifically with staffing. We have seen a decline in residents and staff.

I greatly appreciate the Governor's office and the Department of Health and Human Services for working on this request for our profession. It means a great deal to all those serving our community in senior healthcare.

Nursing homes have dedicated every possible resource to recruit and retain caregivers during the pandemic. We increased wages in 2020 and 2021 at the highest rates of all health care facilities. But because nursing homes are chronically underfunded, soaring labor costs are unsustainable. We are having to utilize agency staff which cost twice as much, and the agencies can pay their clinicians more than what we can offer due to them not being constrained by the government's fixed rates. Even before COVID, the average nursing home barely broke even. With fixed government rates, it is difficult for facilities on shoestring budgets to make additional investments in their staff. We are continuing to struggle to find a balance with labor cost and inflation brought on by the pandemic. We have a responsibility not only to the residents we serve but the staff we are able to retain to ensure they can take care of their families. We wouldn't be able to take care of people in need if it wasn't for our staff and we are asking for your help.

Please support Nevada's long term care workforce by approving work program #91 that will fund a nursing facility and assisted living facility workforce initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Meyer".

Lisa Meyer
Administrator