



nebraska
health care association

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For Immediate Release
Feb. 21, 2017

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**SKILLED NURSING AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES
REACHING OUT TO LEGISLATURE
Campaign Calls for No Payment Cuts and Evaluation of
Nebraska's Medicaid Managed Care Program**

Through the Nebraska Health Care Association's "I'm Counting on You" campaign, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities are calling on Nebraska senators to vote against Governor Pete Ricketts' proposed Medicaid provider rate cut and to support a bill that would require an evaluation of Nebraska's Medicaid managed care program.

"A rate decrease will force facilities to make cuts to jobs and services and, in some cases, close their doors altogether," said Heath Boddy, NHCA President and CEO. "Nebraska facilities have sustained rate cuts before and managed to maintain quality standards. However, the proposed cut is more than some facilities can endure."

The Governor's proposed 2017-2019 budget includes an aggregate rate cut of three percent for all providers, which equals more than \$10 million in federal and state funding for Nebraska's skilled nursing facilities, and \$829,000 for Medicaid Waiver assisted living providers.

In Nebraska, the average cost of providing skilled nursing facility care exceeds Medicaid reimbursement by an average of \$25 per resident per day.

In addition to asking senators to vote against rate cuts, the "I'm Counting on You" campaign urges senators to support LB649. LB649 would prohibit the addition of services or populations to the Medicaid managed care program, also known as Heritage Health, until at least Jan. 1, 2019, or until a critical evaluation is performed of the at-risk capitated Medicaid managed care program and the success of such managed care program is proven.

"Nebraska is proposing cuts to Medicaid provider rates at the same time it is poised to pay insurance companies to take over the State's management of these services," said Boddy. "It would be better to keep these dollars in the state's communities by utilizing them to pay for care for vulnerable Nebraskans."

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The Nebraska Health Care Association is the parent to a family of entities: Nebraska Nursing Facility Association, Nebraska Assisted Living Association, Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association, Licensed Practical Nurse Association of Nebraska, Nebraska Health Care Learning Center, and Nebraska Health Care Foundation. Visit www.nehca.org for more information.