



Administrator

Washington, DC 20201

July 17, 2023

Michael Wasserman, M.D., CMD
Chair, Public Policy Committee
California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine
P.O. Box 800371
Santa Clarita, CA 91380

Dear Dr. Wasserman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposed rule entitled, "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Disclosures of Ownership and Additional Disclosable Parties Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities" (88 FR 9820). We appreciate hearing from you on this important issue.

In your letter, you expressed concerns about the quality of care in America's nursing homes and the need for greater transparency regarding nursing home ownership. Your letter also included several recommendations for CMS' consideration, and requested a meeting with CMS officials, which took place on May 12, 2023. We appreciate the feedback you provided in that meeting.

In a continued effort to increase the transparency of nursing home ownership and management, earlier this year CMS issued a proposed rule that would require nursing homes to disclose to CMS and states additional ownership and management information. The proposal marks an important step in continuing to implement President Biden's initiative to improve the quality and care available at nursing homes. By making facility ownership and oversight more transparent, nursing home residents and their families will be more empowered to make informed decisions about care.

CMS received many comments with recommendations and questions similar to yours. Be assured that as we continue the rulemaking process, CMS will give these comments the most careful and thoughtful consideration before issuing a final rule. CMS is currently reviewing all public comments received as we work to finalize the rule.

Thank you again for your letter, and your concern about nursing home care quality. Please share this response with the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chiquita Brooks-LaSure".

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure