



Editorial Opinion, February 11, 2025

“It’s a uncomfortable statistic — especially for those who are nearing retirement age or are already there — that **70 percent of adults who reach the age of 65 are likely at some point in their lives to need long-term nursing care supports and services**, including home-based care, assisted-living care or nursing home care, either funded privately or by Medicaid, according to a [2019 study](#) for the federal Department of Health and Human Services.”

“While state lawmakers in [recent years have addressed concerns](#) that improved pay for those providing care — in particular at skilled nursing facilities and assisted-living centers — **that need has been largely met in piecemeal fashion**, dependent on renewals, rather than a sustainable, long-term commitment to providing well-funded care.”

“Currently, Medicaid covers only 82 percent of the costs of care for labor and 68 percent of operational costs for assisted living care; the association is lobbying for an increase — **as outlined in proposed budgets for skilled nursing care by former Gov. Jay Inslee and the state Department of Social and Health Services** — to increase that funding for assisted living as well to 95 percent and 75 percent of those costs, respectively.”

IN OUR VIEW

Editorial: Boost state Medicaid funding for long-term care

With more in need of skilled nursing and assisted-living services, funding must keep up to retain staff.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

“Today, the care that so many rely on in assisted living is **on the precipice of a crisis as one-time state funding expires this year and we face a stark disparity in Medicaid funding levels** compared to other long-term care services.”

“In the community I manage, 95% of our residents are only able to access services because of Medicaid funding provided by the state and federal governments. Our state Legislature is confronting difficult financial decisions due to our current budget deficit, but **without a replacement for the bridge funds we currently receive, we will have to shut our doors**. Our clients cannot live on their own and most would struggle to find housing without our services.”

Alejandra Perdomo-Menera is the Executive Director of Cherrywood Care Assisted Living in Spokane and has spent her entire career working in assisted living communities. ([guest column](#), February 27, 2025)

The Seattle Times

State budget: Don’t forsake older, vulnerable adults

[Letter](#) by Tom Gallucci, Executive Director, Parkside Retirement Assisted Living, February 14, 2025

The Columbian

Lower barriers to care

[Letter](#) by Jonathan Su, Executive Director, Hazel Dell Assisted Living, February 13, 2025