



The
Washington
Observer

Nursing home advocates warn closures could follow spending delays

[Article](#) by Sara Kassabian, April 4, 2025

“If the House’s long-term care plan were enacted, Medicaid reimbursement for skilled nursing facilities would be [stuck at 2022 levels](#) until the next biennium, **despite a [law on the books since 2016](#) that mandates Medicaid rates be updated every two years based on the most recently available cost data**...The Senate would keep the statute intact and update the Medicaid reimbursement rate for nursing homes to align with the 2024 cost data.”

Washington State Standard

Long-term care workers need lawmakers in Olympia to step up support

“The Washington state Senate has put forward a budget that increases funding for nursing homes, recognizing the need to invest in the caregivers who dedicate themselves to caring for our residents in need. However, **the state House proposal cuts funding for nursing homes** by delaying rate increases until 2028, which would devastate our workforce and ability to offer high-quality long-term care...We cannot delay increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates any longer than we already have.”

Alicia Harris is a SEIU 775 represented certified nursing assistant at Avamere Rehabilitation of Cascade Park in Vancouver, WA. Dieu Dinh, PT, DPT, LNHA, is the chief executive officer at Hudson Bay Health and Rehabilitation in Vancouver, WA. ([Guest Editorial](#), April 3, 2025)

The Seattle Times

WA must leverage Medicaid funds for long-term care residents

“Long-term care facilities, including skilled nursing facilities, provide critical care to almost 13,000 older adults in Washington. **Two-thirds of nursing home residents rely on Medicaid funding** set by the state Legislature...The solutions are on the table for state legislators. **We must adopt annual rebasing legislation** — setting the Medicaid rate to reflect the current costs for providing care — that allows long-term care providers to compete for workers by offering competitive wages.”

Denney Austin works as a consultant to long-term care facilities and as an interim administrator. He has served as the CEO of multiple large long-term care communities across Washington. ([Guest Editorial](#), March 5, 2025)

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

State must invest in workforce for skilled nursing facilities

“The real costs for supporting patients with Medicaid exceed state funding by **more than \$60 million per year across the 197 Skilled Nursing Facilities in Washington**. This threatens our state’s ability to lower barriers to accessing long-term care...The State Legislature is currently considering permanent solutions to stop relying on temporary fixes that have acted much like a single band-aid on a bleeding wound.”

Cole Casarez is a certified nursing assistant and SEIU 775 member and Dell Workman is an administrator at North Central Care Center in Spokane. ([Guest Editorial](#), February 21, 2025)