



Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents and Workers During COVID-19 Act

Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) have filed the Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents and Workers during COVID-19 Act, H.R. 6698 and S. 3644, to help address this crisis and protect residents and workers during this pandemic. The bill not only mandates testing and requires stricter safety protocols, it also ensures residents can return to the facility if they left due to COVID-19. The bill does the following:

Infection Prevention and Control

Requires nursing homes to have a full-time infection control specialist. It also requires states to survey agencies to ensure surveyors have adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) and conduct inspections within 72 hours if a facility's ratio of death to cases or suspected cases exceeds 5%.

Testing

Requires residents to be tested once a week and workers to be tested daily or screened until adequate testing is available.

Worker Safety

Requires facilities to provide comprehensive worker training, PPE and two weeks of sick leave.

Transparency

Requires facilities to report all COVID-19 cases, including demographic information, as well as all COVID-19 and non-COVID 19 deaths within 24 hours, and to inform residents, families or their representatives and workers within 12 hours of a confirmed case or death. Nursing homes must also report PPE availability and need, staffing and testing data.

Strike Teams

Provides \$500 million to states to establish expert strike teams to be deployed within 72 hours of 3 confirmed or suspected COVID 19 cases

Designating COVID-19 Facilities

Requires CMS to establish criteria for a facility to be designated as COVID-19-only. This ensures appropriate guidelines to protect residents.

Addresses Complaint Surveys

Requires that the government develop a plan to address other non-emergency nursing home inspections that were suspended during the pandemic and reinstitute them as soon as possible.