

IT'S ABOUT TIME

Older Kansans in nursing homes need more time with nurses and nurse aides

It's time we make elder care a priority

Nearly 18,000 Kansans live in the state's 340 nursing homes. They live there because they can no longer safely care for themselves.

Older Kansans need careful, patient and well-trained nurses and nurse aides to help them around the clock with medications, getting in and out of bed, and toileting. They need help with meals, bathing and getting dressed. Activities most of us take for granted because we can do them without help.

Research clearly shows that elders who receive less than 4 hours and 26 minutes of care daily from nurses and nurse aides are at greater risk of contracting illnesses or infections and for falling.

These outcomes complicate other health issues and may lead to death.

Current Kansas nursing home regulations require nurses and nurse aides to provide **only 2 hours of care a day** to each person. This is less than half of the time needed for safe, quality care.

Not enough care from nurses and nurse aides puts the health of our frail elders at a greater risk. An elder is at great risk of infection. The likelihood increases of an elder losing continence, dignity and independence, or of developing pressure sores.

The dangerous risk of medication errors and over-medication is higher when there aren't enough nurses and aides.

Cost of Care

A special tax on nursing homes already exists to fund quality care improvements in nursing homes. Dedicating this money to increase the time nurses and nurse aides spend providing care to elders not only improves health and safety outcomes, but also can save money.

A University of Utah School of Medicine study demonstrated \$3,200 per person savings when residents had 1 hour daily of registered nurse time - that would be \$32 million in savings for Kansas.

It's time to stop cutting corners on the care of elders in nursing homes. It's time we give our frail Kansans a safe standard for nursing home care. It's time we make elder care a priority.



What we can do together

Legislation is needed to replace the 30-year-old inadequate nurse staffing standard. Join Kansas Advocates for Better Care in supporting safe elder care by raising the standard for nursing care to 4 hr./26 min. phased in over three years.

It's time we pass a safe standard for elder care!

Talk to your legislators - Speak up for Kansas elders

Kansas Advocates for Better Care

Phone: 785-842-3088 or 1-800-525-1782

email: info@kabc.org

web: www.kabc.org

913 Tennessee, Ste. 2, Lawrence, KS 66044