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Dear Colleague:

I am writing to urge you to sign onto the attached letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price and Seema Verma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), regarding the final rule on requirements for long-term care facilities participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

The rule, a comprehensive rewrite of the entire federal nursing home regulatory system, was issued shortly before the Obama Administration left office. The first phase of the rule became effective a mere six weeks after its publication on November 28, 2016. Phase II of the rule is much more extensive than the first phase, involving facility-wide assessments, staff competency determinations, antibiotic stewardship, and many other new mandates. As with the first phase, there will be little time for survey agencies or nursing homes to absorb the impending requirements and guidance before Phase II goes into effect on November 28, 2017.

The rule attempts to redirect the federal/state nursing home oversight system toward more person-centered services. However, CMS grossly underestimated the time and resources necessary for both state regulatory agencies and nursing homes to train their staff and make other essential preparations for compliance and enforcement.

The rule has the potential to impact 1.5 million residents of more than 15,000 nursing homes nationwide. In view of the number of facilities and individuals covered by this rule and the extensive requirements it mandates, CMS needs to thoroughly review the rule and its provisions to determine which requirements are essential to high quality nursing home care, and which might be excessive or duplicative, before moving ahead with the next phases of the rule.

Please join me in sending this letter to Secretary Price and Administrator Verma. If you have any questions or would like to sign onto this letter please contact Vincent Giglierano at [Vincent.Giglierano@mail.house.gov](mailto:Vincent.Giglierano@mail.house.gov). The deadline to sign onto this letter is COB Monday, May 22nd.

Sincerely,

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress