



Senate of Pennsylvania

Senator LeAnna M. Washington  
4<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

---

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** February 4, 2011  
**To:** All Senators  
**From:** Senator LeAnna M. Washington  
**Subject:** Co-sponsorship request – Nursing Home Staffing Level Act

I will be reintroducing **SB 32 of the 2009-2010 legislative session**. I invite you to join with me in protecting the Commonwealth's large and growing population of senior and disabled persons who require nursing facility care.

**This legislation will require long-term care nursing facilities to maintain certain staffing levels in order to protect the health and safety of residents and employees.**

Significant staffing resources are necessary to provide quality care to our senior and disabled citizens who reside in nursing homes. Low staffing levels can result in serious, negative consequences for patients. Nursing homes with the lowest ratios of patients to staff performed significantly better on metrics measuring quality of care.

Long-term care nursing facilities which receive public money should be required to provide at all times staffing resources to meet the minimum levels necessary to provide quality care to each resident. Nursing facilities which receive public money have a responsibility to report to residents, their families and the taxpayers the staffing levels that they provide for the residents in their care.

Co-sponsored previously by FERLO, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, KITCHEN and STACK