

Support HB 2518 “The End of Alzheimer’s Starts with Me”

SCRATCH-OFF LOTTO GAME
Rep. Greg Harris Sen. Melinda Bush

Alzheimer’s disease affects 220,000 residents of Illinois. And a recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that only 45% of people with Alzheimer’s disease actually knew they had the disease. As Illinois continues to solve its budget struggles, the Alzheimer’s Association is working to ensure that those living with Alzheimer’s disease receive the care and support they require.

The Alzheimer’s Association surveyed 72 Illinois counties and found that an astounding 87% of

residents who have experience with Alzheimer’s disease **felt that the State of Illinois was not spending enough on care services for those affected by Alzheimer’s disease.**

With this in mind, authorizing the creation of the scratch-off lotto game, “The End of Alzheimer’s Starts with Me,” would generate private funds to help provide care, support, education, and awareness to families who need help tackling Alzheimer’s disease.

EVERY 66 SECONDS someone in the United States develops the disease

87%

of Illinoisans surveyed by the Alzheimer’s Association felt their state government was not spending enough on care services for Alzheimer’s disease

1 IN 3

SENIORS
dies with Alzheimer’s or another dementia.



ALMOST TWO THIRDS
of Americans with Alzheimer’s disease are women.

Alzheimer’s disease is the most expensive to care for, since there is no cure or prevention



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DISCHARGE REFORMS, STAFFING ENFORCEMENT IN LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS

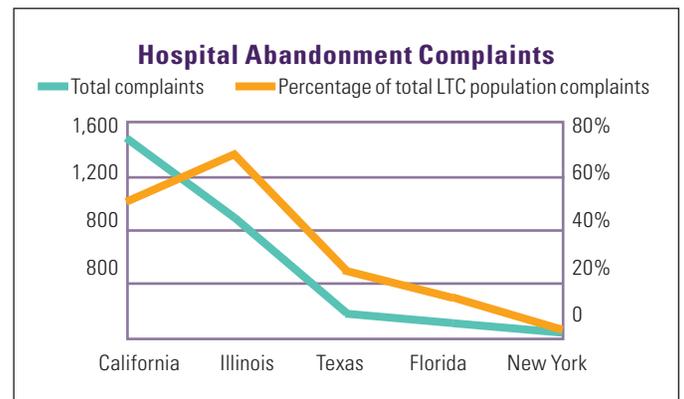
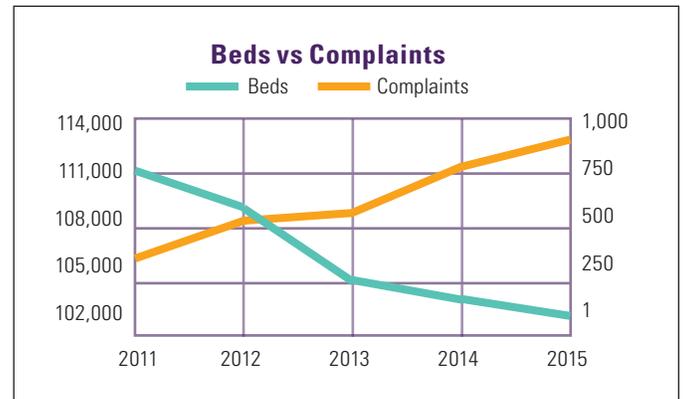
Sen. Biss - SB1624 | Rep. Welch - HB3392

Illinois leads the nation in the improper discharge of long-term care residents – in many instances, abandoning these people in hospital psychiatric units. Unfortunately, with nowhere else to go, the hospital becomes their home. Individual accounts show this most often occurs with residents who experience some type of cognitive impairment. Among the five most populous states, Illinois ranks the worst for complaints of improper discharges, according to a federal analysis of state-by-state data. Furthermore, during 2011-2015 nursing beds decreased by seven percent as complaints of improper discharges increased by 153 percent.

THE STAFFING ENFORCEMENT GAP: RESIDENTS SHORTED 9.1 MILLION HOURS OF LEGALLY MANDATED CARE

Despite landmark 2010 legislation raising minimum direct care staffing levels, 360 of Illinois' 991 nursing facilities fell short of the legal staffing levels in 2015, shorting residents of a total of 9.1 million hours of care.⁽¹⁾ The staffing minimum was set because at lower staffing levels, residents face significant measurable declines in quality of care and outcomes.⁽²⁾ The fact that over a third of nursing facilities are failing to meet the minimum legal requirements – seriously shorting vulnerable long-term care residents on care – points to the need for financial penalties to increase compliance. Without these penalties, a significant percentage of seniors and people with disabilities dependent on long-term care will continue to face “serious deficiencies that may cause harm or jeopardy to nursing home residents.”⁽³⁾

**5463
ILLINOIS
JOBS**



THE PROBLEM

- Current statute is vague and too broad, resulting in Illinois' regulatory agencies interpreting the law one way and the industry interpreting it another
- Long-term care ombudsman are not notified of an involuntary discharge or transfer when it occurs, hindering their ability to effectively advocate on behalf of residents
- Residents and the Department of Public Health have no administrative remedy to protect residents who've been improperly discharged
- Monetary penalties are so low that it becomes cheaper for a long-term care center to be fined than to follow the law
- Those violating staffing laws are not being penalized for doing so, creating a perpetual “neglect-of-care” type culture

THE SOLUTION

- Eliminate loopholes in statute allowing residents to be abandoned at hospitals
- Require the state's long-term care ombudsman be given notice of a discharge to ensure the ombudsman has adequate time to advocate on behalf of the resident
- Grant full due process to residents during the appeals hearing process
- Adopt appropriate monetary penalties for LTC settings found to have jeopardized resident safety by improperly discharging a resident or violating staffing laws
- Equip the Department of Public Health with information to make their regulatory enforcement duties easier, saving taxpayer dollars and cracking down on those not following direct care staffing laws

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¹ <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/CostReports/Pages/2015LongTermCareCostReports.aspx>

² U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Abt Associates Inc. Appropriateness of Minimum Nurse Staffing Ratios in Nursing Homes. Report to Congress: Phase II Final. Volumes I-III. Baltimore, MD: CMS; 2001.

³ Kim H, Kovner C, Harrington C, Greene W, Mezey M. A Panel Data Analysis of the Relationships of Nursing Home Staffing Levels and Standards of Regulatory Deficiencies. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*. 2009b;64B(2):269-78.