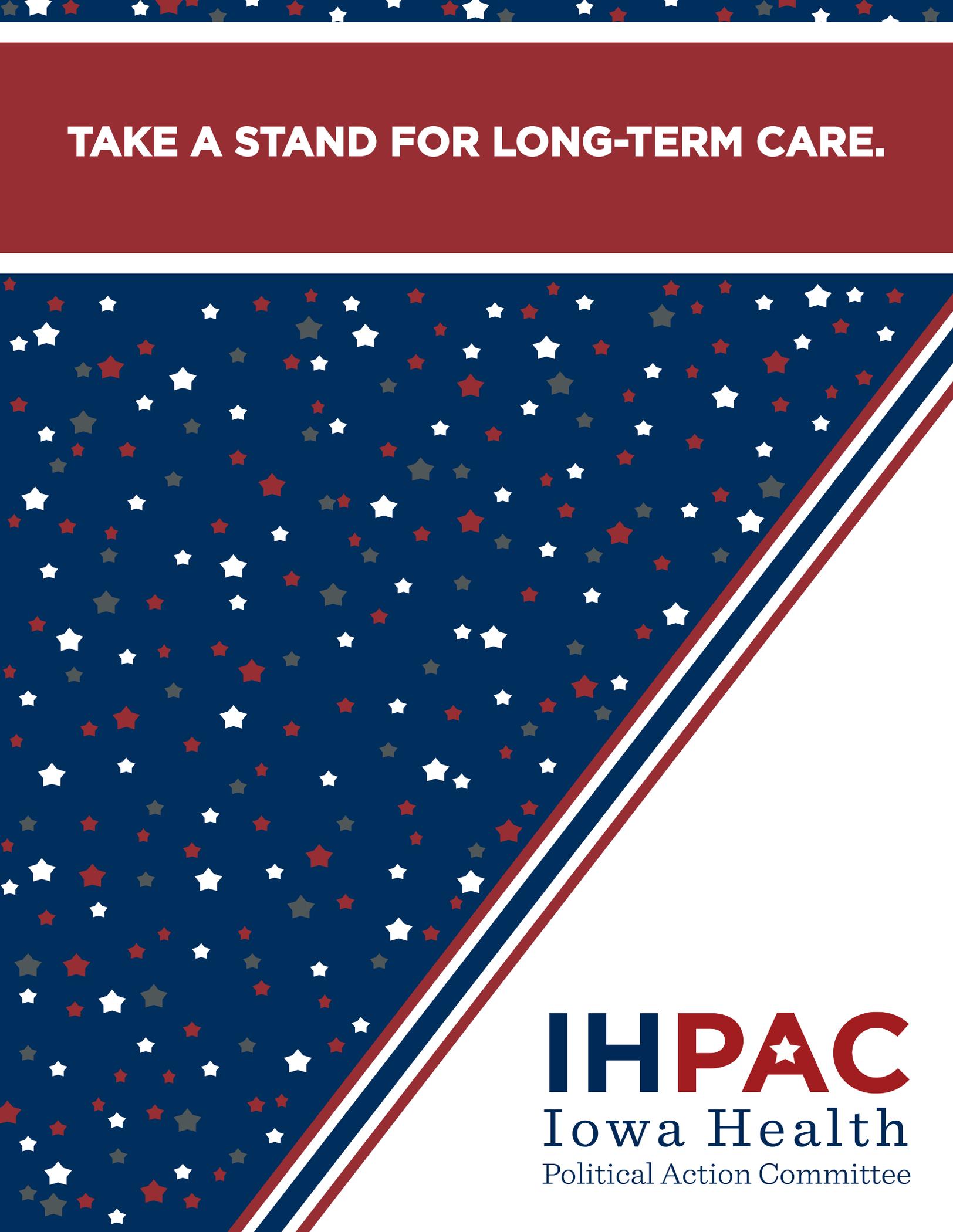


**TAKE A STAND FOR LONG-TERM CARE.**



**IHPAC**  
Iowa Health  
Political Action Committee

2020 took a toll on Iowa's long-term care sector, with increased costs to combat COVID-19 and to comply with new state and federal regulations, and plummeting revenues due to occupancy declines. Throughout this public health crisis, the Iowa Health PAC worked to ensure care providers had the resources they desperately needed to remain solvent and to care for Iowans. From securing rock-solid civil liability immunity to locking down critical provider funding and more, the Iowa Health PAC fought for Iowa's long-term care providers as they fought for the lives of their residents and staff. The Iowa Health PAC has a proven track record of success in standing up for long-term care. Here are some of the major accomplishments achieved in 2020-2021, made possible by those who have supported Iowa Health PAC.

## RECORD-BREAKING FUNDING

- **Secured a total appropriation for long-term care valued at \$60 million in 2021**, when federal match funds, are factored in **that directly benefits Iowa's skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and home health agencies.**
  - Achieved a **\$19.0 million** increase for **skilled nursing Medicaid funding.** This is the largest increase for skilled nursing Medicaid funding in the state's history, and the largest increase for any Medicaid provider in 2021.
  - Obtained an estimated **\$1.57 million** increase for **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Elderly Waiver funding** for care received outside of a nursing facility, such as in assisted living facilities and home care. This marks the first increase these providers have received for this program in many years.
  - Captured a **\$2.0 million** increase for home health **Low Utilization Payment Adjustment (LUPA) rates.** This is the largest increase in LUPA rates in the state's history, and it is important for providing home care to low-income elderly and disabled Iowans.
- **Prevented any funding cuts for long-term care during the 2020 economic downturn** and negotiated the largest funding allocation for long-term care providers in the history of the association in 2021, with a \$22.6 million appropriation for long-term care.
- **Gained \$800,000 for the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund.** This fund provides for renovation of older nursing facilities and those caring for a high number of Iowans on Medicaid. This is the largest appropriation to this fund ever, and in line with our request for an increase.
- **Achieved a two-year reduction in the 85% occupancy penalty to 70%.** This reduction is worth at least an estimated \$13 million in averted occupancy penalties for skilled nursing facilities.
- **Secured a delay in skilled nursing facility rebasing.** Per our request, the skilled nursing facility Medicaid increase will be paid in a flat rate increase.
- **Obtained telehealth payment parity for mental health services.** This new provision will provide the same reimbursement rate for mental health care services provided to a covered person, regardless of whether the services were provided in person or via telehealth. Coverage will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2021.
- **Secured a tax exemption for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).** Existing Iowa law provides an income tax exemption and associated expense deduction for forgiven federal PPP loans for tax years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2020. This change extends the same benefit to taxpayers whose tax year is not the calendar year and who received PPP income in the taxable year of 2019.
- **Expanded tax credits for elderly property.** The existing Homestead Property Tax Credit for Elderly and Disabled was expanded to create a homestead adjustment property tax credit to offset increases in property tax levies of homesteads owned by persons who are at least 70 years of age and whose annual household income is not more than 250.0% of federal poverty guidelines. This would apply to claims filed on or after Jan. 1, 2022, for assessment years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2021.

# IOWA HEALTH PAC MAKES AN IMPACT

## ROCK SOLID LEGAL PROTECTION

- **Ensured rock-solid legal liability immunity** for providers responding to COVID-19 while complying with federal or state regulations, orders and guidance, resulting in an estimated \$220 million in savings from frivolous lawsuits in 2021 alone. Crucially, the protections IHCA secured do not sunset, unlike most liability protections in other states.

## EXPANSIVE REGULATORY RELIEF

- **Secured more than 25 state regulatory waivers** to make caring for residents more feasible and affordable, including waivers allowing the use of temporary nurse aides and delaying implementation of the medication manager rules.
- **Reformed Iowa's criminal background check process**, allowing for more timely hiring of prospective employees, signed into law by Governor Reynolds in 2020.
- **Eliminated visitation rule contradictions** that would have placed providers in the position of choosing between state and federal law, and wrote the one that passed.
- **Secured exemptions for our long-term care providers on vaccine and vaccination passport rules.** Protected providers from six bills that would have again placed providers in a position to choose between complying with state and federal regulations. The final bill includes an exemption for health care providers from vaccine passport requirement bans.
- **Defeated bills to institute invasive nursing facility video cameras and to eliminate the Certificate of Need process for nursing facilities.**

## RESOURCE PRIORITY

- **Secured Tier 1A vaccine priority** for both Iowa skilled nursing facilities and assisted living providers, resulting in a 90% drop in COVID-19 cases between Dec. 28, 2020 and Feb. 28, 2021.
- **Obtained ongoing state personal protective equipment assistance**, including a 30-day supply to every nursing home, and dozens of emergency supply drops.

## SUPPORT IOWA HEALTH PAC

Your support has a direct impact on the legislative outcomes for long-term care achieved at the State Capitol. Consider making an investment in Iowa Health PAC today.

[www.iowahealthcare.org/iowa-health-pac](http://www.iowahealthcare.org/iowa-health-pac)

# IOWA HEALTH PAC TAKE A STAND FOR LONG-TERM CARE

## WHAT IS IOWA HEALTH PAC?

Iowa Health PAC is the political action committee for Iowa's long-term care profession. It allows members of the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA), Iowa Center for Assisted Living (ICAL) and Iowa Center for Home Care (IHC) to pool their resources together to support candidates for state and federal office who understand the issues impacting long-term care in Iowa. With Iowa Health PAC, we can stand stronger together to advocate for quality long-term care for all Iowans.

## WHY CONTRIBUTE?

### Your contribution to Iowa Health PAC:

- Helps to ensure that the long-term care continuum is at the table when decisions affecting the profession are made.
- Supports legislators who understand the issues impacting long-term care, regardless of political affiliation. Levels of support are based on the candidate's record.
- Provides a coordinated effort to strengthen our political voice. Together we are stronger.

## WHO CAN GIVE?

Any employee at a single facility, multi-facility, proprietary and nonproprietary IHCA, ICAL and IHC member organization can give to Iowa Health PAC.

## HOW TO GIVE?



### Personal credit card.

Visit [iowahealthcare.org](http://iowahealthcare.org), select Advocacy and Iowa Health PAC. For questions, call Megan Stoullil at 515-978-2204 or [megan@iowahealthcare.org](mailto:megan@iowahealthcare.org).

### Personal check or money order.

Complete the enclosed form and return with your contribution to Iowa Health PAC, 1775 90th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50266-1563.

### ACH debit

Visit [iowahealthcare.org/iowa-health-pac](http://iowahealthcare.org/iowa-health-pac) or call 515-978-2204 to get an ACH debit authorization form.