



# IHPAC

## Iowa Health Political Action Committee

# MAKING AN **IMPACT**

Iowa Health PAC, the political action committee for Iowa's long-term care profession, allows providers to pool their resources together to support candidates for state and federal office who understand the issues impacting long-term care. Thanks to its generous contributors, Iowa Health PAC can help ensure the long-term care continuum is at the table when decisions affecting the profession are made.

**The following accomplishments from recent legislative sessions are proof that Iowa Health PAC is working.**

### RECORD-BREAKING FUNDING

- **Achieved a record-breaking \$120 million in Medicaid funding appropriations**, when federal match funds are factored in, that directly benefit Iowa's skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and home health agencies — **the largest funding allocation for long-term care providers in the history of the Iowa Health Care Association.**
  - Secured a **\$113 million** increase for **skilled nursing Medicaid funding.**
  - Obtained a **\$1.57 million** state and federal 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.
  - Captured a **\$5.2 million** increase for home health **Low Utilization Payment Adjustment (LUPA) rates.**
- **Secured a temporary reduction in the 85% occupancy penalty to 70%**, which will save Iowa skilled nursing facilities an estimated \$44 million over the next two years.

### 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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

- **Secured accountability for staffing agencies**, including requiring staffing agencies to register with the Department of Inspections and Appeals, to make employees comply with the requirements for health care workers, require job category wage and margin disclosure and prohibit the use of non-compete agreements.
- **Reformed Iowa's criminal background check process**, allowing for more timely hiring of prospective employees.

## EXPANSIVE REGULATORY RELIEF + RESOURCE PRIORITY

- **Secured more than 25 state regulatory waivers** during the public health emergency to make caring for residents more feasible and affordable,
- **Achieved resource priority** for the COVID-19 vaccine and personal protective equipment.
- **Obtained an additional \$14 million in CARES Act funding** for skilled nursing facilities, as well as a \$300 per day increase to Medicaid rates for COVID-19 positive residents.

## STRONG DEFENSE

Iowa Health PAC is also critical in preventing harmful legislation from being enacted, including:

- **Video surveillance in facilities** that would have violated residents' privacy and dignity.
- **COVID-19 visitation and vaccine rule contradictions** that would have placed providers in the position of choosing between state and federal law compliance.
- **Changes to the Certificate of Need (CON) process** that would have been detrimental to skilled nursing facilities and assisted living programs.

## YOUR CONTRIBUTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Through the support of its contributors, Iowa Health PAC has made major progress on issues critical to the sustainability of the long-term care profession during recent legislative sessions. However, the battle is not over. As competition for limited state resources continues, Iowa Health PAC will continue to fight for long-term care to be prioritized for resources, including funding, needed to provide care. Iowa Health PAC will also continue to push back on legislative and regulatory barriers to providing care. **To do so, we need your support. Please consider joining your peers in contributing or renewing your contribution to Iowa Health PAC.**



### LEARN MORE

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

### GIVE

Scan the QR code to contribute via your mobile device