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CONTACT: Gary Mack, June 1, 2011
O: 630-357-7552  C: 312-961-2467
gary@mackcommunications.com

Local Residents Protest Cuts to Nursing Home Payments

Quinn’s budget would hurt senior care, safety and jobs

A delegation from the Heritage Manor nursing home in Beardstown journeyed to Springfield to protest deep cuts proposed for the state’s nursing home budget. The delegation met with Senator John Sullivan to discuss what the cuts mean for seniors, nursing homes, and nursing home workers. The visit was organized by the Health Care Council of Illinois, a leading advocate for seniors and nursing home services.

“We take our mission seriously, but we can't provide the quality care that our residents deserve if the 6 percent cuts called by Governor Quinn stay in place,” said Dennis Toohill, Administrator at the Heritage Manor facility. “Our Springfield visit is just one of several activities we are working with the Health Care Council of Illinois on to turn these talks around. It is imperative that our lawmakers understand that these cuts must be stopped.”

The local delegation is one of nearly 70 delegations traveling to Springfield early this month to press home the ‘no cuts’ message. Other activities happening statewide include a postcard campaign and a bus tour of the state. All the activities are aimed at highlighting how serious these cuts are and what a threat they are to resident care.

“This is about the quality of care for our seniors, it’s about the safety of our nursing home residents and it’s about jobs,” Pat Comstock, executive director of HCCI, said. “Our Medicaid residents need more care than the State pays for and for years we have just absorbed the cost. There is no more fat left that we can trim. A cut of any kind is going to impact resident care.”

The proposed cuts will not only impact resident care, but also halt the implementation of many safety reforms put in place by the legislature last year. It will also mean the loss of 7,000 direct care jobs and $70 million in federal revenue.

To find out what you can do to help go to www.CareYouCanCountOn.org. Become our fan on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

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