

# *Assisted Living Closures Loom*

## **Caregivers of Most Vulnerable Population Still Wait for Relief**

- Argentum is the largest national association representing senior assisted living facilities, memory care and continuing care senior facilities. These communities offer choice, and comfort in the final years of life to nearly two million seniors and employ one million caregivers. They are not nursing homes but care for the same vulnerable populations.
- As we close on one year of the pandemic, thousands of assisted living facilities still wait for federal COVID-19 relief. Many caregivers, 56% report closures are imminent in a recent survey.

## **Vulnerability of Assisted Living Residents to COVID-19**

- Assisted living provides direct and personalized care, where social distancing is not possible, 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week: 63% need assistance with bathing; 48% need assistance with dressing; and 40% need assistance with toileting. Over 42% suffer from Alzheimer's or some form of dementia.
- The average age of an assisted living residents is 85. The majority suffer from chronic conditions and comorbidities, thereby making them the most vulnerable to COVID-19. According to the CDC, individuals aged 85 or higher who are COVID positive have a 630 times higher risk of death from COVID-19 compared to 19–29-year-olds.

## **Closures Loom. Financial Resources Urgently Needed for PPE and Testing**

- High costs of PPE, additional staff needs, hero pay, testing and sharp declines in occupancy rates have totaled \$15 billion, and are increasing substantially each month. Many report exorbitant increases in PPE expenditures, as high as a 2,000% increase for gowns and 1,500% increase for masks.
- Thousands of assisted living facilities wait for financial relief from the Provider Relief Fund. Money promised to these caregivers last September, still has not been processed.
- Closures loom. Over half of assisted living providers are operating at a loss, a 20% increase from October 2020, and 56% say they won't be able to sustain operations for another year, according to recent reports.

## **What Can Congress and the Administration do? Prioritize seniors and their caregivers by:**

1. In the next COVID Package, provide *targeted* relief to Assisted Living Facilities to help with PPE, staffing and testing needs. Facilities have faced upwards of \$15 billion in increased expenses combined with lost revenue. Any legislation must include \$5 billion in funding to assisted living as defined in the Older Americans Act (USC 42-Sect.3002) and other senior congregate care settings such as independent living.
2. Immediately address the backlog in the Provider Relief Fund. Ensure that Assisted Living caregivers who were promised relief finally receive that relief.
3. Ensuring that vaccines are rapidly distributed to seniors in all senior congregate care settings (skilled nursing, assisted living, independent living). Ensure that caregivers are incentivized to take the vaccine.

## Estimated Losses to Senior Living Providers due to COVID-19 (by state)

56% of providers operating at a loss

State	State Economic Impact of Senior Living	COVID-19 Economic Impact
Alabama	1,000,000,000	-\$31,613,376
Alaska	444,500,000	-\$274,447,751
Arizona	4,700,000,000	-\$450,547,895
Arkansas	63,800,000	-\$176,317,164
California	26,500,000,000	-\$1,931,725,797
Colorado	3,600,000,000	-\$237,448,280
Connecticut	2,600,000,000	-\$150,801,563
Delaware	638,200,000	-\$46,371,337
Florida	14,500,000,000	-\$1,004,291,185
Georgia	5,000,000,000	-\$541,311,322
Hawaii	447,300,000	-\$15,056,818
Idaho	1,300,000,000	-\$98,034,807
Illinois	5,900,000,000	-\$676,745,692
Indiana	3,200,000,000	-\$375,841,517
Iowa	821,200,000	-\$191,974,121
Kansas	157,900,000	-\$165,200,046
Kentucky	1,200,000,000	-\$215,732,952
Louisiana	2,700,000,000	-\$239,394,185
Maine	1,300,000,000	-\$23,527,869
Maryland	3,600,000,000	-\$212,551,609
Massachusetts	6,000,000,000	-\$302,346,934
Michigan	7,700,000,000	-\$367,653,561
Minnesota	4,200,000,000	-\$278,023,730
Mississippi	702,600,000	-\$165,287,945
Missouri	2,100,000,000	-\$276,748,889
Montana	1,100,000,000	-\$56,336,673
Nebraska	1,000,000,000	-\$114,933,869
Nevada	1,100,000,000	-\$166,675,539
New Hampshire	555,700,000	-\$38,953,256
New Jersey	3,500,000,000	-\$412,994,356
New Mexico	715,000,000	-\$104,096,209
New York	10,000,000,000	-\$843,294,536
North Carolina	7,500,000,000	-\$448,285,553
North Dakota	541,900,000	-\$59,079,126
Ohio	4,800,000,000	-\$535,709,420
Oklahoma	612,400,000	-\$235,336,276
Oregon	7,200,000,000	-\$85,342,779
Pennsylvania	6,200,000,000	-\$499,755,039
Rhode Island	742,600,000	-\$68,957,775
South Carolina	1,900,000,000	-\$261,375,029
South Dakota	656,600,000	-\$65,345,424
Tennessee	2,400,000,000	-\$434,999,448
Texas	8,800,000,000	-\$1,400,901,144
Utah	1,800,000,000	-\$207,590,461
Vermont	428,600,000	-\$6,985,253
Virginia	5,100,000,000	-\$301,834,694
Washington	7,400,000,000	-\$186,594,088
West Virginia	410,100,000	-\$356,191,515
Wisconsin	8,600,000,000	-\$71,872,389
Wyoming	204,300,000	-\$31,176,911
<b>National</b>		<b>-\$15,443,613,105</b>

Loss projections are based on national loss data and severity of COVID-19 within each respective state.