



## Ohio's Skilled Nursing Care Community

- **Long-Term Care System Threatened**

Governor Ted Strickland's budget framework would revert in large part to the plan which would penalize skilled nursing care providers, already rejected by the House and Senate. The proposal would shred the safety net for vulnerable Ohioans. The proposal would leave in place the massive franchise fee increase that will generate over a billion dollars in revenue for the state, and in turn put in place reimbursement cuts that would cost thousands of jobs, threaten services for our residents, and no doubt force some facilities — important parts of their communities and the long-term care delivery system — to close.

- **Doing our Part**

Through the Franchise Permit Fee in the Senate budget bill, Ohio's skilled nursing facilities are contributing more than \$686 million dollars to balance Ohio's budget through large increases in fees they pay to the State - \$686 million for desperately needed funding so tens of thousands of Ohio children get health and dental care, expectant mothers receive prenatal care and birth defects in infants can be identified and treated. This is on top of cuts to reimbursement and flat funding for skilled care services over the past 5 years, which – combined with rising costs – put many LTC facilities in dire financial straits. We've done our part; now we are asking that the state of Ohio live up to its promises to our residents.

- **Caring for our Seniors**

Ohio's skilled nursing facilities provide post-acute care, rehabilitation services and necessary medical care for more than 80,000 Ohioans on a daily basis. This care will continue to be necessary for tens of thousands of Ohioans regardless of additional community based services. Skilled nursing facilities now care for residents with higher acuity than ever before, as well as sophisticated rehabilitation needs, and are the choice of care settings for our residents.

- **Helping our State**

Cutting funding to care for those in Ohio's skilled nursing facilities will hurt all of us. Our facilities contribute to Ohio's health care needs, provide employment to more than 100,000 Ohioans, and provide a significant tax contribution to the state and their communities. Ohio leaders are faced with tough budget choices. Cutting promised funding to care for Ohio's frail elderly and disabled should not be one of those choices.