



**For Immediate Release  
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**Indiana Long Term Care Providers to Meet with Members of Congress**  
*IHCA Members to discuss federal legislative issues affecting long term care in Indiana*

**INDIANAPOLIS-** Members of the Indiana Health Care Association (IHCA), the State's largest trade association and advocate representing proprietary, not-for-profit and hospital-based nursing home and assisted living communities are meeting in the nation's capitol today to discuss federal long term care legislative issues with members of Congress. The visits are part of the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) 2009 Congressional Briefing that will be held June 3-4, 2009 in Washington D.C.

"We are looking forward to discussing the impacts of federal legislation on Indiana long term care facilities and the care that is provided to geriatric and developmentally disabled Hoosiers," said Steve Smith, President of IHCA. "Our message to Congress will be a unified one that stresses three important areas: preserve sufficient Medicare and Medicaid funding, include comprehensive long term care reform in any health care reform effort and address the critical shortage of nurses and direct care workers."

Indiana delegates include: Mike Forgey, Millers Health Systems; Doug Shuck, Covenant Care; John Kukla, Trilogy Health Systems; Dr. Stephen Moore, Cardon and Associates; Jeff Huffman, Cardon and Associates; Lee Marchant, LJM Enterprises; Kevin Pahud, BKD and Robert Thomas, BKD.

The Congressional visits will occur at a critical time when the demand for long term care is growing and the state and nation faces a chronic workforce shortage. Earlier this year, AHCA released a report that found vacancy rates among staff registered nurses (RNs) in Indiana's skilled nursing facilities at 26% percent, the highest in the United States. Indiana also ranked 8th highest in certified nurse aide vacancies, at 13.7%.

Smith further commented on the importance to continue the congressional discussions. "As we continue to face these and other fiscal issues, including proposed Medicare Part A cuts to nursing homes and a system that is largely underfunded by Medicaid, we will continue to work with our national affiliate, AHCA, to continue these discussions with

members of Congress and ultimately transfer them into actions. Our goal is to ensure quality long term care for geriatric and developmentally disabled Hoosiers.”

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**About the Indiana Health Care Association (IHCA)**

The Indiana Health Care Association is Indiana's largest trade association and advocate representing proprietary, not-for-profit and hospital-based nursing home and assisted living communities, adult foster care and adult day services. IHCA's 264 member facilities care for more than 25,000 of Indiana's geriatric and developmentally disabled citizens, the majority of whom are low-income Medicaid recipients. To learn more about IHCA, visit [www.ihca.org](http://www.ihca.org).