

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Clay Schexnayder
Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge LA 70804

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing regarding the Notice of Intent that begins on page 1306 of the September Louisiana Register wherein the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) intends to amend the Nursing Facilities Reimbursement Methodology under Title 50.

It is our understanding that the rule has been sent to the Joint Health and Welfare committee to consider adoption. We hope you will work with the joint committee and LDH to either hold a public hearing to debate this or reconsider the adoption of this rule.

AARP Louisiana opposed this rule because we are concerned that monies will be diverted from other critical programming. Therefore, written and verbal comment was provided to LDH to oppose this rule on October 26, 2020 (see attached).

The net impact of this proposed rule, as noted in the Fiscal Statement, is that payments to nursing homes will increase by over \$5 million a year starting in fiscal year 20-21 and rising closer to \$6 million by fiscal year 22-23.

We believe it is shortsighted to allocate the states' limited resources to provide for nursing homes which will only make the cuts that fall on other critical services more severe.

According to LDH reports, over 11,000 individuals are waiting for an opportunity to receive long term support and services at home, rather than in a facility. Five million dollars—the same amount nursing homes would receive under this rule--would help 200 people. It would seem to be more appropriate to spend that money on serving people rather than paying for square footage.

Again, we urge you to work with the Joint Health and Welfare committee and LDH to hold a hearing and to reconsider the adoption of this rule.

Sincerely,



Denise Bottcher
State Director, AARP Louisiana