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CAHF Advocacy Days Bring Skilled Nursing Patient Priorities to the Forefront at the State Capitol

What you need to know: Members of the California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF) held more than 80 meetings with lawmakers during Advocacy Days at the State Capitol, urging the governor and legislature to restore Workforce and Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) funding to support California’s skilled nursing facility patients and the workforce that provides their care.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Members of the California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF) gathered at the State Capitol this week for the association’s annual Advocacy Days, holding more than 80 **individual meetings with legislators and key staff** to underscore the urgent need to prioritize funding for California’s skilled nursing patients and the workforce that cares for them in the state budget.

Representing facilities that care for nearly half a million of California’s most vulnerable residents, CAHF members met with lawmakers to highlight the importance of restoring funding for the **Workforce and Quality Incentive Program (WQIP)**, which supports staffing, training and quality improvements in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). With California facing a difficult budget year, providers emphasized that maintaining strong investments in skilled nursing care is essential to protecting access for seniors and individuals with disabilities who rely on around-the-clock medical care.

“California’s skilled nursing facilities care for hundreds of thousands of patients each year who depend on us for 24-hour, high-quality medical care,” said Cassie Dunham, CAHF’s CEO/President. “Restoring WQIP funding is critical to supporting the dedicated caregivers who serve these patients every day and ensuring families across the state continue to have access to the care their loved ones need.”



CAHF members shared firsthand stories about the impact of workforce investments on patient outcomes, recovery and quality of life. Providers also stressed that SNFs are a critical part of California’s healthcare safety net, delivering 24-hour medical care and post-hospital rehabilitation services that help patients regain independence and return home safely.

“Behind every policy discussion are real patients and families who rely on skilled nursing care during some of the most difficult moments in their lives,” said Calvin Callaway, Administrator at Folsom Care Center. “Programs like WQIP help us recruit and retain the skilled caregivers our patients depend on. Without that support, access to care for vulnerable Californians is at risk.”

Despite fiscal headwinds facing the legislature this year, CAHF members said the unified message delivered during Advocacy Days resonated with lawmakers who recognize the essential role SNFs play in California’s healthcare system.

As budget deliberations continue in the coming weeks, CAHF members are looking ahead to upcoming hearings and urging the governor and legislature to prioritize restoring WQIP funding in the 2026–27 State Budget to protect patient access to care and support the workforce that makes high-quality care possible.

Founded in 1950, the California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF) is a non-profit trade organization representing skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. CAHF is dedicated to providing quality care for the frail, elderly, intellectually disabled, and those with chronic mental illness. Visit [CAHF](#) for more information.

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