

## **LUTHERAN SERVICES IN AMERICA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

As one of the largest national nonprofit networks in the country, [Lutheran Services in America](#) brings the collective power of our national network together to advocate alongside our members on public policy issues critical to children, older adults, families, people with disabilities, veterans, refugees and others experiencing need in the United States.

### **During the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, we will urge lawmakers to take the following actions:**

#### **1) Strengthen the nonprofit health and human services sector**

We seek to ensure the financial well-being of faith-based nonprofit health and human services providers including fair reimbursement and elimination of burdensome regulations that don't improve quality of care.

#### **2) Expand the Direct Care Workforce**

We seek policy changes that support the expansion of a more sustainable workforce, including immigration reform, expanded reimbursement and training mechanisms, and reduction of burdensome regulations, such as unfunded staffing minimums.

#### **3) Achieve equitable health and well-being outcomes for all people in America**

We seek new payment mechanisms and incentives to allow providers to address key social determinants of health needs, including behavioral health and social services, to improve health equity for all.

### **We are actively engaging to achieve these goals:**

- Prevent the adoption of the unfunded minimum staffing mandate in skilled nursing facilities.
- Reform immigration law to expand refugee work programs, issue special visas for certain direct care workers, and expand opportunities for people with foreign licenses or degrees to work in the United States.
- Eliminate burdensome regulations that don't improve quality of care.
- Achieve fair Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement that supports a family sustaining wage for caregivers and maintains quality and access.
- Build and fund innovative models of care that directly address recruitment, training, and retention of a well-qualified workforce, including expanded reimbursement mechanisms for different certification pathways, such as apprenticeships.

### **How you can join us in supporting you and the network:**

- Directly share your experience in one of four upcoming listening sessions with CMS officials.
- Join our letter-writing campaign to lawmakers and CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure as we target sending 1000 messages to raise our voice and visibility.
- Participate in the 20+ virtual Hill visits we're planning with lawmakers, administration officials, and our coalition partners.
- Look for our advocacy toolkit, a valuable resource for you to mobilize your community around key issues.
- Let us know if you would like to learn more about our advocacy activities.