

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641  
Minority (202) 225-2927

November 14, 2023

Ms. Lori Smetanka  
Executive Director  
Consumer Voice  
7729 Warbler Lane  
Derwood, MD 20855

Dear Ms. Smetanka:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Health on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, to testify at the hearing entitled “Supporting Access to Long-Term Services and Supports: An Examination of the Impacts of Proposed Regulations on Workforce and Access to Care.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions and requests with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Your responses should be mailed to Jolie Brochin, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to [Jolie.Brochin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jolie.Brochin@mail.house.gov).

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Brett Guthrie  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Health

cc: Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

### **The Honorable Debbie Dingell**

We've heard time and time again from nurses across the nation about the severity of the nursing staffing crisis and how it's jeopardizing the 1.2 million Americans who are receiving care in nursing facilities. Research shows adequate staffing levels—and inadequate staffing levels—impact patient care.

1. Ms. Smetanka, can you speak to the relation between nurse staffing—including RNs, LPNs, and CNAs—and patients' quality of care?
2. Can you elaborate on the turnover rate nursing homes are experiencing, and the effects this has on patient care? What causes turnover?

HCBS care workers receive low wages that are not fitting of their tremendous work, and these low wages are making it hard to attract a workforce that is able to sustain these important services. In fact, the median income for a home healthcare worker is \$19,100 annually, and because of high poverty rates, more than half of home health workers rely on public assistance.

3. Ms. Smetanka, can you briefly describe the demographics of home care workers?
4. And how do you expect the Medicaid Access Rule to impact this?