



NDLTCA Newsletter

December 10, 2024

All Members - *All Members*

Assisted Living - *AL*

Basic Care - *BC*

Nursing Facilities - *NF*



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NDLTCA Updates

Don't Miss the Membership Meeting – Your Voice Matters!

All Members

Administrators of nursing facilities, basic care, and assisted living—this is your call to action! Join us for the in-person membership meeting on **Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 1:30 PM CST** at the Radisson in Bismarck.

This meeting is critical as we'll be voting on several key items for our legislative platform. These decisions will directly shape our advocacy efforts, and your input is essential.

We can't stress enough how important it is to have everyone there. Don't miss this chance to

make your voice heard and help us set the course for the upcoming legislative session. See you there!

Advocacy

Staffing Mandate Update

NF

We wanted to give you an update on where things stand with the staffing mandate. While efforts to repeal the mandate were included in recent discussions on a slimmed down health package, these were ultimately rejected. Advocacy efforts remain strong, with support from key stakeholders and assurances from congressional allies to keep pushing for resolution.

Looking ahead, it's expected that this issue will resurface in the first quarter of 2025 as part of broader legislative negotiations. AHCA and NDLTCA remains committed to advocating for our members and will keep you updated as more information becomes available. Thank you for your patience and continued engagement as we navigate this complex issue together.

The case brought by the state attorneys general involved oral arguments on their request for a preliminary injunction. It appeared that the judge was sympathetic to the policy arguments but not convinced of the urgency required to justify a preliminary injunction. This aligns with the approach AHCA has consistently taken since there is that phase in period and you have to show irreparable immediate harm. If the judge denies the preliminary injunction motion, the press may report it as a loss, which is technically accurate. However, this does not affect the underlying case, where we have a very strong likelihood of success. A final ruling is expected around March or April, so there's no need for concern.

Skilled Nursing News has an article on this, [read here.](#)

Budget Updates & Committee Assignments

All Members

The 69th Legislative Assembly convened in Bismarck last week, December 2nd-5th for Organizational Session. During this time, lawmakers were provided training, selected leadership and committee assignments and convened on the third day, December 5th, in joint session for Governor Burgum's outgoing budget address and budget recommendations.

Leadership for the 69th Legislative assembly was announced as follows: House Majority Leader, Mike Lefor and Minority Leader Zach Ista. Representative Robin Weisz will be speaker of the House. In the Senate, Senator David Houge will be the Senate Majority Leader and Kathy Hogan will serve as Senate Minority Leader. In the House, Representative Don Vigesaa will chair the Appropriations Committee with Representative Keith Kempenich as Vice Chair and in the Senate, Senator Brad Bekkedahl will Chair Appropriations, with Senator Robert Erbele serving as Vice Chair. Representative Jon Nelson will Chair the House Human Resources division of Appropriations and Representative Matt Ruby will serve as Chair for the House Human Services Committee. In the Senate, Senator Judy Lee will Chair the Human Services Committee with Kent Weston serving as Vice Chair.

During his address, Governor Burgum highlighted that North Dakota has been ranked as number two in the nation in fiscal stability, and number one in the nation in Business Friendliness, Infrastructure and Labor Force Participation. According to Wallet Hub, North Dakota is ranked as the hardest working state in the nation. Additionally, North Dakota saw the highest rate of in-state migration in the nation-a positive note for the workforce challenges we're

facing.

Governor Burgum identified 3 priorities in preparing his recommended budget-addressing workforce challenges, diversifying the economy, and keeping taxes low. He noted each agency cut 3% out of their proposed budgets prior to his recommendations through a red-tape reduction initiative. He noted that the total proposed General Fund expenditures for the 25-27 biennium are 6.5 billion dollars, up from 6.1 billion in the previous biennium. The total proposed expenditures are 19.59 billion, a slight decrease/flat from the current biennium. He noted state investment assets have doubled since 2017 and indicated North Dakota should seek to be the next state with no income tax. He challenged public officials to stop taxing workforce and to instead, develop more targeted tax relief that goes directly to citizens versus traditional approaches such as disbursement through political subdivisions.

He spoke about initiatives surrounding Innovation in K-12 education, including 50 million dollars designated for Education Savings Accounts which support pathways to career, college or military readiness, and funding tied directly to students. He highlighted the states investment in CTE's, notably 13 additional CTE centers were added to the budget during current biennium. He highlighted the number one barrier to economic growth was workforce, but that we have made progress-our workforce has grown, and our unemployment has decreased 2 points since 2017. He encouraged automative tax credits as an innovative tool to address labor shortages. Namely, programs targeted at training individuals to operate robotics where labor shortages are high. A 54 million dollar workforce package will be included in this budget to continue current workforce initiatives, 35 million in Housing funds to address accessibility and affordability, and 22.5 million has been recommended for the Regional Workforce Impact Program for legal immigration, tech skills and training grants and the Find the Good Life campaign.

Governor Burgum went on to note that North Dakota is the most military friendly state in the nation. He emphasized investment in the autonomous ag section-which he felt could help America *and* ND win the AI Agriculture race. He felt strongly that ND will be a continued leader

in autonomous agriculture, natural gas expansion, biotech, and energy fields. He noted that ND is the number 3 oil producing state and believes there will be an opportunity for ND to be an innovator in energy addition. He has included a combined 100 million for incentivizing private investment in Autonomous Ag, Research, Sustainable Energy, North Dakota Development Funds, and Northern Plains UAS (unmanned aerial systems) -we're a leader in UAS innovation and optimization and poised to become the epicenter of UAS in the USA.

Representative Mike Nathe will introduce legislation to support an 11-million-dollar FFA data investment, which will allow North Dakota to protect all manned and unmanned ariel data in the nation-we would position us to be the only state in the nation with that capability. He has also earmarked 15 million to advance AI in workforce and education. The budget will also provide \$435 million to support flood control and water supply projects,

The budget recommends increasing behavioral health supports by an additional 37 million. He closed his comments by noting there will be a leftover ending fund balance and he suggests investing in bonding opportunities. He recommends a 1.5-billion-dollar bonding package to continue projects for MRCC, Red River Valley Water Supply, Mouse River Flood Protection, 269 million for the State Hospital renovation and expansion, and additional dollars for Fargo, Grand Forks and Dickinson Airports and Highway 85 lane expansion.

While the future looks bright for North Dakota, there are still many unknowns. Although the Governor has provided a comprehensive budget, we do expect Incoming Governor Armstrong to submit an additional budget and the details of what that budget may address are still unknown. In Governor Burgum's Budget recommendations, we have not identified additional funding for LTC above the cost to continue and inflationary increases. However, as you know, we are still in discussions with the DHHS about addressing the Upper Payment Limit, basic care payment system and adult residential care rate calculations. We will update you as we learn more about how the Department would like to address each of those issues.

In the meantime, please reach out if you have any questions. We've also included the full committee assignments for relevant committees below:

House Standing Committee Appointments - 2025 Session									
Appropriations	Human Services	IB&L	Judiciary	Gov't & Veterans Affairs	Political Subdivisions	Finance & Tax	Education	Energy & Natural Resources	Transportation
Don Vigesaa-Chair Keith Kempenich-Vice Chair	Matt Ruby-Chair Kathy Frelich-Vice Chair	Jonathan Warrey Chair Mitch Ostlie-Vice Chair	Lawrence Klemm-Chair Karen Karls-Vice Chair Steve Vetter-Vice Chair	Austen Schauer-Chair Bernie Satrom-Vice Chair	Don Longmuir-Chair Clayton Fegley-Vice Chair	Craig Headland-Chair Jared Hagert-Vice Chair	Pat Heinert-Chair Cindy Schreiber-Beck-Vice Chair	Todd Porter-Chair Dick Anderson-Vice Chair	Dan Ruby-Chair Jim Grueneich-Vice Chair
Human Resources Jon Nelson-Chair Greg Stemen-Vice Chair	Education & Environment Mike Nathe-Chairman Steve Swiontek-Vice Chair	Josh Christy Jorin Johnson Landon Landon	Carrie McLeod Donna Henderson Lori VanWinkle	Karen Grindberg Landon Bahl Josh Christy Karen Karls Carrie McLeod Karen Rohr Vicky Steiner Steve Vetter Lori VanWinkle Christina Wolff Mary Schneider Bill Tveit	Pat Hatlestad Matt Heilman Macy Bolinske Mike Motschenbacher Mitch Ostlie Nathan Toman Jonathan Warrey Lawrence Klemm LaurieBeth Hager Jayme Davis	Todd Porter Jason Dockter Dennis Nehring Nathan Toman Mike Motschenbacher Jeremy Olson Ty Dressier Vicky Steiner Jim Grueneich Zach Ista Austin Foss Dick Anderson	Desiree Mlorton Dori Hauck Matt Heilman Pat Hattlestad Don Longmuir Doug Osowski Andrew Marschall Anna Novak Jim Jonas Laurie Beth Hager Liz Conmy Roger Maki	Anna Novak-Vice Chair Matt Ruby Jeremy Olson Jorin Johnson Jason Dockter Jared Hager Pat Heinert Novak Craig Jim Jonas Andrew Marschall Liz Conmy Commy Austin Foss	Daniel Johnston Jared Hendrix Doug Osowski Desiree Morton Ben Koppelman Neils Christianson Jim Kasper Kathy Frelich Roger Maki Mike Schatz Lisa Finley- DeVille Ty Dressier
Emily O'Brien Bert Anderson Mike Berg Scott Wagner Eric Murphy Alisa Mitsko	Scott Louser Bob Martinson Dave Richter Mark Sanford Karla Rose Hanson	Karen Anderson Mike Beltz Clayton Fegley Dawson Holle Dwight Kiefert Jared Hendrix Karen Rohr Dan Ruby Austen Schauer Jayne Karen Grindberg Dan Vollmer Collette Brown Lisa Finely- DeVille	Ben Koppelman Mike Schatz Nels Christianson Jeff Hoverson Daniel Johnston Christina Wolff Mary Schneider Bill Tveit	Jonathan Warrey Chair Mitch Ostlie-Vice Chair	Don Longmuir-Chair Clayton Fegley-Vice Chair	Craig Headland-Chair Jared Hagert-Vice Chair	Pat Heinert-Chair Cindy Schreiber-Beck-Vice Chair	Todd Porter-Chair Dick Anderson-Vice Chair	Dan Ruby-Chair Jim Grueneich-Vice Chair
Government Operations Dave Monson-Chairman Mike Brandenburg-Vice Chair	Agriculture Mike Beltz-Chairman Dori Hauck-Vice Chair	Nico Rios Macy Bolinske Jayne Karen Grindberg Dan Vollmer Collette Brown Lisa Finely- DeVille	Christina Wolff Mary Schneider Bill Tveit	Jonathan Warrey Chair Mitch Ostlie-Vice Chair	Don Longmuir-Chair Clayton Fegley-Vice Chair	Craig Headland-Chair Jared Hagert-Vice Chair	Pat Heinert-Chair Cindy Schreiber-Beck-Vice Chair	Todd Porter-Chair Dick Anderson-Vice Chair	Dan Ruby-Chair Jim Grueneich-Vice Chair
Brandy Pyle Jay Fischer Glenn Bosch Keith Kempenich Lisa Meier Hanson	Dawson Holle Karen Anderson Donna Henderson Dwight Kiefert SuAnn Olson Cindy Schreiber-Beck Dan Vollmer Dennis Nehring Nico Rios Jeff Hoverson Gretchen Dobrovich Bill Tveit	Christina Wolff Mary Schneider Bill Tveit	Jonathan Warrey Chair Mitch Ostlie-Vice Chair	Jonathan Warrey Chair Mitch Ostlie-Vice Chair	Don Longmuir-Chair Clayton Fegley-Vice Chair	Craig Headland-Chair Jared Hagert-Vice Chair	Pat Heinert-Chair Cindy Schreiber-Beck-Vice Chair	Todd Porter-Chair Dick Anderson-Vice Chair	Dan Ruby-Chair Jim Grueneich-Vice Chair

Senate Standing Committee Appointments - 2025 Session											
Appropriations	Human Services	IB&I	Judiciary	Veterans Affairs/Ag	State & Local Gov't	Workforce Dev.	Education	Taxation	Energy & Nat. Resources	Transportation	
Brad Bekkedahl-Chair Robert Erbele-Vice Chair Sean Cleary Cole Conley Kyle Davison Dick Dever Michael Dwyer Jeffery Magrum Scott Meyer Donald Schaible Jonathan Sickler Ronald Sorvaag Paul Thomas Terry Wanzek Tim Mathern	Judy Lee-Chair Keith Kent Weston-Vice Chair David Clemens Kristin Roers Desiree Van Oosting Kathy Hogan	Jeff Barta-Chair Keith Boehm-Vice Chair Mark Enget Greg Kessel Jerry Klein	Dian Larson-Chair Bob Paulson-Vice Chair Jose Castaneda Claire Cory Larry Luick Janne Myrdal Ryan Braunberger	Larry Luick-Chair Janne Myrdal-Vice Chair Randy Lemm Mark Weber Kent Weston Richard Marcellais	Kristin Roers-Chair Jose Castaneda-Vice Chair Jeff Barta Judy Lee Chuck Walen Ryan Braunberger	Mike Wobbema-Chair Michelle Axtman-Vice Chair Diane Larson Michelle Wobbema Josh Boschee	Beard-Chair Randy Lemm-Vice Chair Michelle Axtman Justin Gerhardt Mike Wobbema Josh Boschee	Mark Weber-Chair Dean Rummel-Vice Chair Dale Patten Michelle Powers Chuck Walen Richard Marcellais	Dale Patten-Chair Greg Kessel-Vice Chair Todd Beard Keith Boehm Mark Enget Justin Gerhardt Desiree Van Oosting	Clemens-Chair Cory-Vice Chair Jerry Klein Bob Paulson Dean Rummel Kathy Hogan	
Human Resources Division Dick Dever-Chair Sean Cleary Kyle Davison Jeffery Magrum Tim Mathern	Government Operations Division Terry Wanzek-Chair Randy Burckhard Michael Dwyer Robert Erbele Jonathan Sickler										
Education & Environment Ronald Sorvaag-Chair Cole Conley Scott Meyer Don Schaible Paul Thomas											

Federal Assisted Living Legislation Expected To Be Introduced Before Year's End

AL

[McKnight's Senior Living](#) (12/9, Bonvissuto) reports, "Federal oversight of the assisted living industry would be duplicative and would divert resources away from significant work already underway to create best practices for the setting, according to national senior living organizations." These "comments follow the news that US Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ) may introduce federal assisted living legislation by year-end." NCAL Executive Director LaShuan Bethea "told McKnight's Senior Living said the organization will continue working with Kelly and other legislators to ensure that assisted living communities 'have the flexibility to meet the unique

needs of their residents through state regulation, while ensuring seniors and their families have the clarity and resources they need." [Read more...](#)

Medicare and Medicaid

ND Transitioning from RUGS IV to PDPM January 1, 2026

NF

NDLTCA has been working closely with the ND Department of Health and Human Services to support a smoother transition from RUGS IV to the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM). This transition is a significant undertaking, and we appreciate the invaluable input from MDS Coordinators, Administrators, Eide Bailly, and LeeAnn Thiel during our planning sessions.

A special thank you to **Kelly Ekstrom of Benedictine Living Community**, **Aleshia Emineth from Good Samaritan Society**, and **Matt Ahrndt from SMP Health** for your continued commitment and leadership throughout this transition. Your dedication has been instrumental in shaping a successful path forward.

The shift to PDPM is not a simple parallel move, as its complexity makes budget neutrality challenging. With the help of Forvis, we've analyzed the system's limitations, reviewed strategies from other states, and explored the best options for North Dakota.

NDLTCA is committed to ensuring this transition is as seamless as possible. We will continue to provide education, resources, and updates to support you through this process. Thank you for your ongoing efforts, and stay tuned for more information and training opportunities!

[AHCA-All Member PDPM Resource Library](#)

Get on Board: PDPM Rolls into State Medicaid Programs

NF

[Provider Magazine](#), Joanne Kaldy 12/4/2024

Just when you think you've got a handle on recent changes to F-tags and survey guidance, a new state issue has people scrambling for information and answers. The Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) is coming to state Medicaid programs, and states that used to employ the Resource Utilization Group (RUG) III or IV models are transitioning to this reimbursement model.

One by one, more states are embracing the use of the Medicaid PDPM. If it is not happening in your state, the PDPM is likely on its way like a train coming down the track. The good news is that you can get on board with a ticket for the future and not the baggage of the past. [Read more...](#)

Rural Providers Urge Employers Not To Move Retirees Into Medicare Advantage

All Members

[ModernHealthcare](#) (12/9, Tepper, Subscription Publication, 215K) reports, "Rural health systems have long urged consumers to avoid individual Medicare Advantage plans, arguing in newspaper articles, social media posts and community meetings that insurers underpay them, make them jump through unnecessary administrative hoops and delay transfers to post-acute care facilities." However, "pressing employers not to move their retirees into Medicare Advantage is a new tactic for rural providers, said Harold Miller, president and CEO of the Center for Health care Quality and Payment Reform, a think tank." Miller said, "Employers in the

community don't recognize that whenever their Medicare beneficiary is signing up for a Medicare Advantage plan, that they may be helping to put their local hospital out of business." [Read more...](#)

Veterans

Holiday support for Veterans

All Members

The VA wishes you a very happy holiday season this year. As health care providers, you make tremendous sacrifices, especially during this time of year. We appreciate you.

We also want to acknowledge Veteran loneliness, which can be especially challenging during the holidays. If you know a Veteran who may be socially isolated, remind them they are not alone and share these resources with them:

- **Veterans Crisis Line** is available 24/7 to support Veterans in crisis. Veterans can dial 988 then press 1, [chat online](#), or text 838255 for help.
- **Compassionate Contact Corps** connects Veterans to volunteers for weekly social connection phone calls. [This program](#) is available at more than 100 VA facilities. Veterans interested in receiving calls can ask their VA providers for a referral.

We are sincerely grateful for your support in taking care of the Nation's Veterans. Thank you, and Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!

Education

What drives success in long term care and how can leaders motivate their teams?



THE KEYS TO THRIVING IN LONG TERM CARE

In their new book, Mark Parkinson, Dr. David Gifford, and Rae Anne Davis delve into the strategies and stories behind the most innovative leaders in skilled nursing and senior living.

AHCA **NCAL** AHCApublications.org

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Looking for educational opportunities or CE credits?

All Members

Check out AHCA/NCAL's online learning platform, [ahcancaLED](#), where you'll find a wide range of resources designed for all disciplines in long-term care. These opportunities will help you develop new skills, advance your career, and support the success of your organization. **As a member of NDLTCA you are a member of AHCA/NCAL so you get member rates for the education.** You will need to log in to receive the member rates. If you have trouble logging in, contact educate@ahca.org and they will walk you through logging in and/or creating an account.

NDLTCA Education Page

All Members

Visit our Education Page on our website to see more opportunities for you and your teams: <https://ndltca.org/education/>

Workforce

Gov. Doug Burgum proposes \$19.5 billion budget with funding for workforce shortage, housing crisis

All Members

BISMARCK — As North Dakota's population quietly but steadily increases, solutions to its continuous labor shortage, rising property taxes and statewide housing crisis become more imperative, Gov. Doug Burgum said as he delivered his 2025-2027 biennium budget proposal in his 10th and final address to the state Legislature.

“We are proposing a strategy-driven budget that addresses, again, our No. 1 barrier in our state economic growth. That’s still workforce,” Burgum said. [Read more...](#)

Biden Administration Withdraws Proposed Overhaul of Workplace Apprenticeship Programs

All Members

On December 4, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced that it would not move forward with its proposed rewrite of the [National Apprenticeship System](#) rules. Earlier this year, AHCA/NCAL submitted comments on the proposal, highlighting concerns about specific proposed changes that could negatively impact the expansion of apprenticeship programs and hinder the recruitment of new sponsors in the long term care (LTC) industry. Business groups also voiced concerns about the potential costs associated with the proposal. More than 2,000 comments were received. For more information about the proposal withdrawal, click [here](#).

You can read more [here](#) on AHCA/NCAL’s LTC apprenticeship partnership with Equus Workforce Solutions.

Post a Job on Our Website

All Members

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Career Opportunities \(ndltca.org\)](#)

If you would like to post a job opening for your facility, please contact Stacy Irey at 701.222.0660 or email stacy@ndltca.org



Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at nikki@ndltca.org or Peggy at peggy@ndltca.org.
