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# NDLTCA Newsletter

## May 6, 2025

All Members - *All Members*

Assisted Living - *AL*

Basic Care and Adult Residential - *BC*  
Nursing Facilities - *NF*

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**Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor, DTN Staffing!**



**Booths 401-402**

**Say Hello to our DTN Team.**

Don't miss out on the chance to connect with our team, we can help you with your staffing needs.

**dtnstaffing.com**

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Thank you for your generous sponsorship and continued support!

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**NDLTCA Updates**



## It's Convention Week!

*All Members*

*We're excited to welcome members to our Annual Convention & Expo this week! Please note that our office will be closed during the event, and staff response times may be delayed. We appreciate your patience as we focus on making this a great experience for all attendees!*

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## 2025 Legislative Session Recap

*All Members*

*As we wrap up a politically charged and challenging session, I want to thank you for your advocacy and engagement. Your efforts kept our priorities front and center—even in a tough budget year.*

*The report below highlights key bills, our advocacy work, and what it means for you. While there's more to do, we're proud of what we accomplished together. Thank you for all you do for your teams, residents, and the future of long term care in North Dakota.*

*— Nikki Wegner, President, NDLTCA*

## **HB 1012: DHHS Budget**

### **Basic Care:**

#### **Ask:**

- 4/3 % inflationary increase
- 5\$/day pass-through
- Expand operating margin to 3% on all rate components, except property.

#### **Amendments:**

- Maintain 5\$/day pass-through
- Support 2/2 provider inflator
- Direct DHHS to correct & reimburse the 6-month missing adjustment factor.

#### **Final Provisions:**

- 2/2 inflationary Increase
- \$5/day pass-through
- Directive to study & recommend a solution to correct the 6-month missing adjustment factor.

#### **Skilled Nursing:**

**Ask:**

- Remove language requiring Nursing Facility Incentive Program withhold announced by DHHS

**Amendments:**

- Direct the DHHS to collaborate with the NDLTCA and its members to study alternative payment structures for the quality incentive program, including a potential withhold, and then provide recommendations to 70th Legislative Assembly.

**Final Provisions:**

- During 25-26 biennium, DHHS to collaborate with NDLTCA to develop payment withhold structure for NFIP. and implement beginning July 1, 2027.

**Dual Impact Skilled Nursing/Basic Care:**

**Ask:**

- Behavioral Health-Stakeholder Collaborative: \$3 million for the biennium to support implementation of care model aimed at increasing access to services for individuals with complex behavioral health needs in skilled nursing and basic care settings.

**Amendments:**

- \$2 million for biennium to support implementation of behavioral health model as notated above.

**Final Provisions:**

- Removed in Senate, was not included in final provisions.

## **HB 1126: ND Cosmetology Board-Salon Inspections**

### **Original Bill Language:**

- Updated NDCC required licensure for those providing haircare in nursing home and basic care settings.

### **Ask:**

- NDLTCA secured an amendment to exempt uncompensated volunteers and all facility staff. Basic care was added to the statute, and the exemption—previously limited to nurse aides—was expanded to all staff.

### **Final Provision:**

- Amendment adopted, passed as amended.

## **HB 1485: Personal Needs Allowance increase for SNF & Basic Care**

### **Original Bill:**

- Increased personal needs allowance for SNF and Basic care residents by \$10 and added annual inflator.

### **Ask:**

- Provided testimony in support, worked with bill sponsor on bill language

### **Amendments;**

- Amended version increased to \$150/resident

### **Final Provisions:**

- Final version passed with \$15 increase and annual inflator.

## **HB 1619: Low interest Revolving loan fund for SNF & Basic Care**

### **Original Bill:**

- Provided \$100 Million dollars in a 1% interest revolving loan fund to support renovation and new build for SNF and Basic Care.

### **Amendments:**

- Amended in House to \$50 million with 2% interest
- Amended in Senate Policy committee to \$100 million with 2% interest.
- Amended in Senate Appropriations to \$35 million with 2% interest.

### **Final Provisions:**

- Final Amendment in Conference committee provides \$15 million at 2 %, non-revolving.

## **HB 2271: Adult Residential Provider Rate Enhancement**

### **Original Bill:**

- Sponsored at request of NDLTCA. Sought to apply a 3% inflationary increase effective July 1, 2025, reimburse ARC providers at cost beginning January 1, 2026, required rate recalculation to be implemented July 1, 2027, applied a 5% margin to address historical challenges.

### **Amendments:**

- Amended in house to direct DHHS to recognize actual cost of care in 2026 and recalculate payment rates in 2027. Includes provision requiring DHHS work with NDLTCA to address basic care payment system, including ARC and report back to Legislative Management with recommendations

### **Final Provisions:**

- Passed as amended

For the full document, members [click here](#).

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## House Committees Begin Reconciliation Markups

### *All Members*

This week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee is tentatively planning to finalize a package aimed at achieving \$880 billion in savings across Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. At the same time, the Ways and Means Committee may advance a separate tax package.

Some House Republicans—particularly those in more politically vulnerable districts—have raised concerns to committee leaders about proposals they believe would significantly cut Medicaid. For example, Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) has publicly stated he won’t support more than \$500 billion in Medicaid-related savings.

Key elements likely to be included in the Energy and Commerce package are Medicaid work requirements, stricter and more frequent eligibility checks, and a rollback of Biden-era rules that expanded Medicaid access. Lawmakers are also weighing changes to Medicaid provider taxes and the possibility of shifting Medicaid expansion populations to a per capita cap funding model.

The biggest challenge for the committee is meeting the \$880 billion savings goal, with Medicaid expected to carry much of the load—despite possible savings from energy policies and spectrum auctions. Meanwhile, committee Democrats released a report estimating how many people could lose coverage if nationwide work requirements are enacted.

We, along with AHCA, are monitoring this closely and are in regular contact with our congressional delegation to ensure the voice of long-term care providers is heard.

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## Regulatory

### Medicaid Provider Update

*NF and BC*

#### Coverage Policy Updates

The following provider guidelines, manuals, and policies have been updated for May 2025. New updates are noted at the bottom of each updated policy. These can be found on the [Provider Guidelines, Manuals and Policies webpage](#).

- [Basic Care Facilities](#)
- [Behavioral Health Rehab](#)
- [Institutions for Mental Disease](#)
- [Nursing Facilities](#)
- [Occupational Therapy](#)
- [Ordering/Referring/Prescribing Providers](#)
- [Physical Therapy](#)
- [Physician Administered Drugs](#)
- [Professional Medical and Surgical Services](#) (previously Physician Services)
- [Speech Language Pathology](#)
- [Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services](#)
- [Swing Bed Facilities](#)
- [Transplant Services](#)

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## Get to Know the 9 CMS F-Tags Containing Trauma-Informed Care Mandates

*NF*

Trauma Informed Care is a regulatory requirement for all SNFs. Nine CMS F-Tags cover various aspects of TIC, making compliance with this critical form of care vital to nursing facility survey success and quality care. [Read More](#)

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## Education

### AHCA Education

*All Members*

[Learning the Minimum Data Set- Basic Training for the Interdisciplinary Team-](#) The ultimate resource and boot camp covering MDS essentials for nurses, administrators, social workers, and the entire MDS team to improve accuracy and efficiency. The [Learning the Minimum Data Set Program Guidebook](#) is the perfect companion, enabling team members to take notes and actively engage throughout the training.

- **One Individual Can Earn 13.25 nurse credits through IBON and 13.25 NAB CEs**  
AHCA Member: \$349 | Non-Member \$549
- **First Year Unlimited Use Facility Subscription (No CEs) AHCA Member Only: \$399**
- **Annual Renewal Unlimited Facility Use Subscription (No CEs) AHCA Member Only: \$99 (after first year subscription)**

[Nursing Home Administration: Beyond the Essentials](#)- The Nursing Home Administration series delivers a comprehensive review of key topics that affect how successfully administrators operate skilled nursing facilities. The modules relate to all aspects of facility management including financial, clinical, regulatory, and leadership.

- **\$450 AHCA Member | \$650 Non-Member**

[The Shift Coach Program](#)- The shift coach training was created to assist nursing home leadership learn how to achieve widespread consistent use of infection prevention and control practices, and is appropriate for facility leadership, infection preventionists, unit supervisors, and department leads.

**Registration is FREE for AHCA Members AND Non-Members thanks to a CDC Project Firstline grant award 6 NU50CK000582-04-01.**

[Responsible Food Procurement for Changing Times](#) – May 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm EDT.

**Visit the [On-Demand page](#) to explore our archived webinars!**

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## Workforce

### AHCA/NCAL Endorses National Nursing Workforce Center Act

*All Members*

This bipartisan legislation would address nursing workforce shortages by supporting nursing workforce centers in almost every state. [Read More](#)

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# Self-Care Can Help with Employee Retention

*All Members*

These advanced courses address the need for self-care and resiliency and offer mindfulness-based stress reduction techniques for employees. [Read More](#)

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# NDLTCA Website: Keep Your Job Listings Up to Date!

*All Members*

Are your job postings current?

We're encouraging all members to take a few moments to review the job postings listed on our website:

👉 [NDLTCA Job Openings](#)

If any of the positions you've posted are no longer open or need to be updated, please let us know so we can make the necessary changes. Keeping this page current helps job seekers find the right opportunities—and ensures your organization stays visible to top talent.

## Have a new job to share?

We'd love to include it! Simply send us the following:

- The job title and description
- Any important details (e.g., location, application deadline)
- A link to the job posting on your organization's website

You can send updates or new listings to Belma at [belma@ndltca.org](mailto:belma@ndltca.org)

Thank you for helping us keep our job board accurate and helpful for everyone!



Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) or Peggy at [peggy@ndltca.org](mailto:peggy@ndltca.org).