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## **State of the Union Should Include the State of Long Term and Post-Acute Care**

*- Annual initiative once again calls on the Administration and Congress to bring long term and post-acute care to the forefront -*

**Washington, DC** – In advance of President Obama’s annual address to Congress, the American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) today released its own assessment of the long term and post-acute care profession, citing significant and innovative movement in providing a higher level of quality care. Future cuts, however, could potentially impact that care, the Association said.

“Our profession has made great strides, yet we are struggling to meet growing demand in the light of diminishing federal and state funding,” stated Governor Mark Parkinson, President and CEO of AHCA/NCAL. “We have improved in quality. Many of our facilities are hiring doctors and reducing hospital readmissions. We have improved in delivering a variety of health care options for seniors. That significant progress could all be put at risk if policymakers continue to avoid serious discussions centering on how we are reimbursed.”

For the second year in a row, the [\*State of Long Term and Post-Acute Care\*](#) illustrates developments in the profession, ranging from improvement in quality measures, consistency with culture change, and the hiring of more doctors in facilities. Goals of reducing hospital readmissions and improving patient and staff satisfaction are at the forefront. For a profession that employees 3.1 million Americans and contributes to \$529 billion in economic activity, the series reports that instituting these changes in the face of diminishing reimbursement is increasingly difficult, shedding light on the need for stable, consistent funding.

The series features an interactive component that allows thousands of member facilities to share the priorities they feel the President should address. “Thousands of Americans go to work every day committed to caring for the elderly, even as their resources dwindle. We are determined to ensure that their voices are heard,” said Governor Parkinson.

To participate online, the public can “tweet” their comments on [Twitter](#) using the hashtag **#Itcstate** or post a comment on the AHCA/NCAL [Facebook wall](#). The public is also encouraged to share comments on [YouTube](#) by uploading a video clip and tagging it with the keyword “Itcstate.”

For more information, visit:

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