

Republican Motion to Instruct #8

HOLDING STATES ACCOUNTABLE FOR PROTECTING NURSING HOMES

Offered by Representative Jacobs (NY) and Representative Smucker (PA)

Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Smucker move that the Committee on the Budget direct its Chairman to request on behalf of the Committee that the rule providing for consideration of the bill make in order an amendment that would require no allocation be made to a state unless the chief executive officer of such state has submitted to the Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services a certification that all data published by the state relating to skilled nursing facilities in such state is accurate and will continue to be accurate.

Background

- (1) Over the past year, states have received approximately \$360 billion in various COVID-19 related funding. This bill proposes to provide more than \$500 billion in additional funding to state and local governments.
- (2) While the COVID-19 virus has affected every corner of the United States, it has been particularly devastating to nursing homes, both patients and workers, due to the predominantly elderly populations and living conditions.
 - a. Over 163,000, or 34 percent, of all United States deaths from COVID-19 are linked to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. However, only 5 percent of all COVID-19 cases are linked to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.
- (3) Certain states have failed to effectively address nursing home COVID-19 outbreaks and deaths. Some states have seen an increase in the COVID-19 related nursing home deaths per 100 residents between December 2020 and January 2021 while other states have seen a decline in COVID-19 related nursing home deaths per 100 residents in that same time period.
- (4) Additionally, it has been reported that some states have manipulated, underreported, and hid nursing home data as it relates to the pandemic to show rosier projections. Earlier this month, it was reported that New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and his team withheld from state legislators the true number of coronavirus-related deaths at New York nursing homes, out of fear it could be used against them. The state undercounted the number of nursing home deaths by as much as 50 percent. New York updated their official count of nursing home deaths from under 9,000 to over 15,000.

Technical Language

The amendment should prohibit any funding to any state and local government whose chief executive officer has not submitted to the Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services a certification that all data published by the state relating to skilled nursing facilities are accurate and continue to be accurate.