

**Friday Review—5/21/21**

Good afternoon, and welcome (almost) to the weekend! Hope you have something fun on your weekend “to-do” list.

**Funding, staffing problems brought to Congress**--A Senate committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions met this week to examine the issues of underfunding and staffing challenges in nursing homes. <https://www.providermagazine.com/Breaking-News/Pages/Senate-Panel-Recognizes-Workforce-Shortages,-Underpayments-for-Nursing-Homes.aspx>

**New York troubles**—Inadequate funding, sharply reduced occupancy, staff shortages all may lead to closing of long-term care facilities in the state of New York. <https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/coronavirus/decline-in-admissions-staffing-imperils-n-y-nursing-homes/article_12e44651-0dba-57ab-9e3a-4d154ef01f0e.html>

**Nation’s census is improving, but…**--Occupancy is increasing in nursing homes around the country, but it is too early to tell if this means census is stabilizing. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/05/snf-occupancy-improving-but-stabilization-isnt-guaranteed/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=b75c4a0de7>

**Private rooms**—The shift to private rooms in skilled nursing facilities is up 31% due to COVID. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/05/covid-accelerates-shift-to-private-skilled-nursing-rooms-up-31-in-2020/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=b75c4a0de7>

Some states are considering additional funding for long-term care…..

**California**—The state budget in California contains $3.8 billion dollars for the state’s Master Plan for Aging. <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/california-budget-includes-3-8-billion-to-build-age-friendly-state-for-older-adults/>

**Maine**—A state senator in Maine is calling for an increase in funding for long-term care. <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/money/about-55-percent-of-maines-covid-related-deaths-were-people-in-long-term-care/97-82df72f0-7d76-48a5-af59-bd63cf2ff808>

**Connecticut**—Connecticut legislators are also considering more money for nursing homes. <https://www.theday.com/local-news/20210518/state-budget-panel-wants-more-federal-money-for-businesses-and-human-services>

**Cameras in Connecticut--**—Also in Connecticut, the legislature is ready to pass a bill allowing cameras in skilled nursing facilities and calling for free internet service for all residents. <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/bill-would-allow-granny-cams-in-resident-rooms-require-operators-to-provide-free-internet/>

**3-day stay waiver**—As the pandemic winds down, the federal government is expected to decide whether to keep the waiver of the three-day stay requirement. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/05/post-pandemic-snfs-should-expect-government-scrutiny-on-use-of-three-day-stay-waiver/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=445052a0bc>

**Visitation guidelines**—As you know, the RI Department of Health issued new visitation guidelines for long-term care facilities this week. A copy is attached to this email.

**Emotional support available**—AHCA is spreading the word about a new program of free, confidential, mental health treatment. Called the Emotional PPE Project, it is available to any worker in a health care field impacted by COVID-19. You can find more info here: <https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Blog/Pages/The-Emotional-PPE-Project.aspx?cm_ven=ExactTarget&cm_cat=COVID-19+Update+%23177&cm_pla=All+Subscribers&cm_ite=https%3a%2f%2fwww.ahcancal.org%2fNews-and-Communications%2fBlog%2fPages%2fThe-Emotional-PPE-Project.aspx&cm_lm=sfraser@rihca.com&cm_ainfo=&&&&&>

**A woman of distinction!**—Rhode Island’s own Teresa Chopoorian of the Mansion Nursing and Rehabilitation Center was honored this week as one of McKnight’s 19 Hall of Honor members from around the country!

For information on the awards ceremony, click here: <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/senator-nfl-players-industry-leaders-congratulate-mcknights-women-of-distinction-event-continues-today-with-ce-webinars/>

For information on the Women of Distinction program, including a list of all honorees, click here: <https://www.mcknightswomenofdistinction.com/>

Looks like another great spring weekend ahead! Yes, we all have chores to do, but hope you can get out and enjoy the spring weather!

Have a great weekend!