



Dear LEGISLATOR:

I am writing/calling in support of the Nursing Home Improvement and Accountability Act of 2021 – with a specific emphasis on the portion that would create a \$1.3 billion demonstration program to subsidize the development of small-home alternatives to traditional nursing facilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the very real shortcomings baked into the institutional nursing home model that has dominated eldercare since the 1960s. Founded in 2003, the non-profit Green House Project has championed the development of small-home nursing campuses that feature private resident rooms and bathrooms, communal living and dining spaces, and access to the outdoors – but so far adoption has been relatively limited, with 359 Green House homes currently operating among the more than 15,000 nursing facilities across the country.

Small-home campuses demonstrated remarkable pandemic resiliency: COVID-19 cases were 50% lower in Green House communities as compared to the general nursing home population, with a death rate less than 30% of the national totals in long-term care. But even before the pandemic, these unique alternatives generated a host of positive outcomes, including increased resident and family satisfaction, reduced adverse health episodes, and lower workforce turnover.

I believe that elders in every community across the country deserve to age with dignity in the setting of their choice – but too often, outdated institutional nursing homes represent the only option for people who need long-term care services. The Nursing Home Improvement and Accountability Act would set aside vital funding to encourage the development of new small-home campuses, while also implementing strong program-compliance standards to ensure that the federal funds go directly to improving elders' lives and bolstering the caregiving workforce.

I urge you to support the Nursing Home Improvement and Accountability Act so we can take concrete steps to improve the lives of all Americans, regardless of their age or care needs – while also avoiding a repeat of the COVID-19 disaster in long-term care.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME