

Murphy Presses CMS to Intervene in Haven Nursing Home Management

In response to recent reports in The Hartford Courant concerning the mismanagement of Haven Healthcare nursing homes across Connecticut, today Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) wrote to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to request that it respond to this issue with the full extent of current law.

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NEW BRITAIN, CT – In response to recent reports in The Hartford Courant concerning the mismanagement of Haven Healthcare nursing homes across Connecticut, today Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) wrote to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to request that it respond to this issue with the full extent of current law. Murphy suggested that CMS could deny payment for new admissions, insert temporary management within the facilities under question, or terminate the company's facilities from the CMS program all together.

"As enforcement of nursing home quality-of-care requirements is a shared federal-state responsibility, I write to you to request that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services take immediate action to ensure that the conditions outlined in the Courant article cease to exist," wrote Murphy.

Over the past several days The Hartford Courant has reported that in the last 15 months, 10 of Haven's homes have been cited for 23 violations which caused actual harm or immediate jeopardy to its patients while staff levels at the homes fall below both the federal and state averages. Detailed in the report were accounts of patient neglect that in too many cases led to the death of residents.

And while violations continue to occur, it is unclear how much of the tens of millions of federal dollars being provided to Haven to reimburse services is being used to improve patient care or how much is being used for the exclusive profit and ancillary business ventures of Haven's operators.

"It appears that both state and federal regulators have failed to ensure that the fifteen nursing homes owned and operated by Haven comply with state and federal law. This is unacceptable," said Murphy.

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), using information collected by CMS, in 2005, 44.2% of nursing homes in the state were cited for these deficiencies – the highest in the nation. And despite almost half of the state's homes being cited for such deficiencies, the GAO reported that monetary sanctions for violations have been at the lower end of the allowable range, that denial of payment for new admissions was rarely used and that terminations of payments to nursing homes is almost never contemplated.

Haven operates three nursing homes in the Fifth District – in Farmington, Torrington, and Waterbury.

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