

Argentum Advocates

April 2021 Member Briefing



Argentum
Advocates



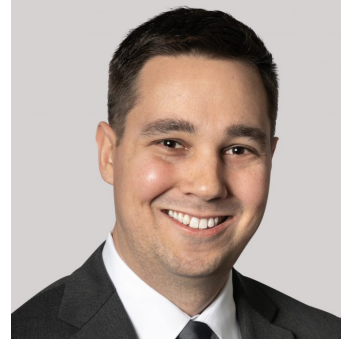
Welcome Argentum Advocates!



Maggie Elehwany
Senior Vice President
Public Affairs



Paul Williams
Vice President
Government Relations



Dan Samson
Director
Government Relations

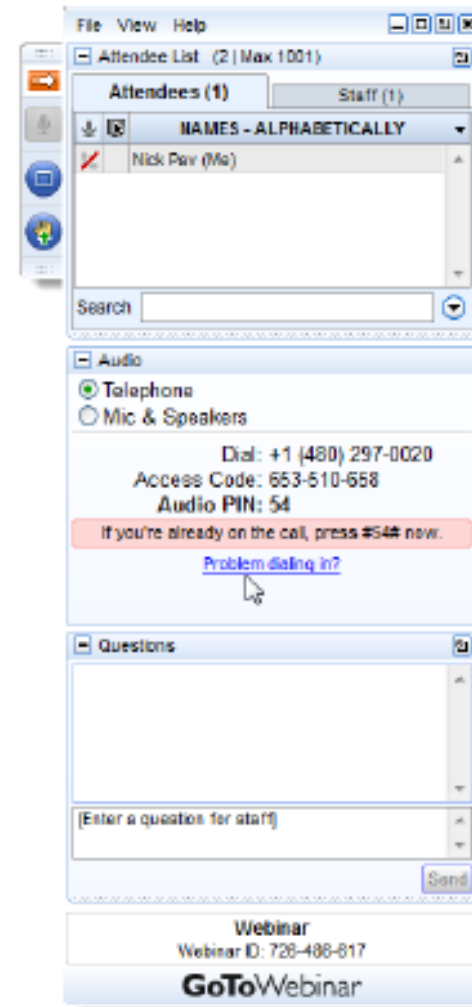


Kyle Loeber
Manager
Public Policy



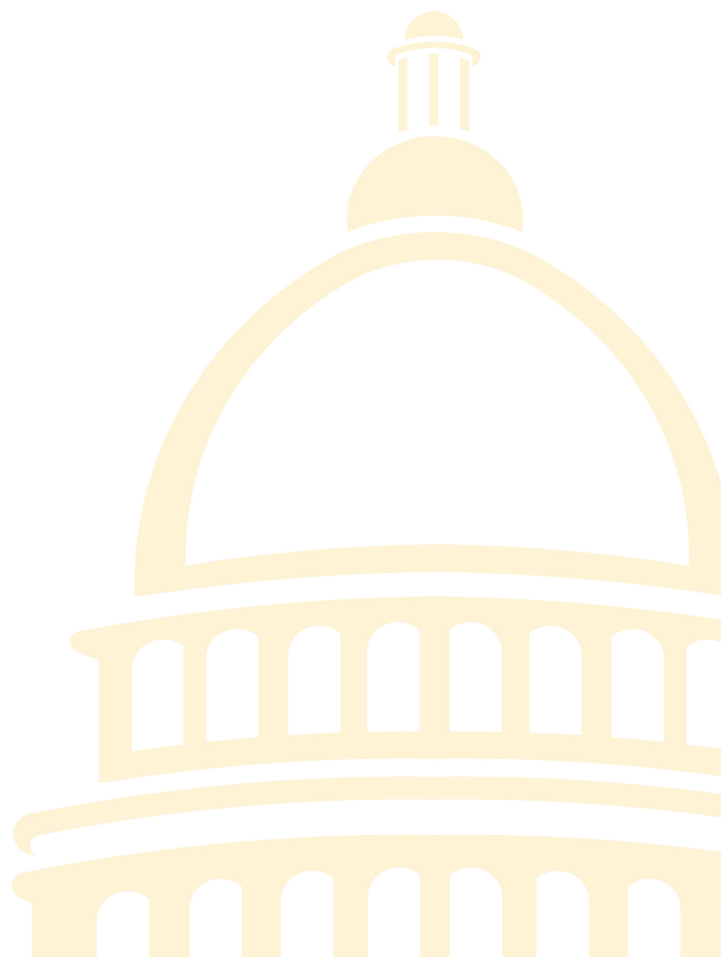
Have a Question?

Ask your question at any time in the questions box on your GoToWebinar panel.



Agenda

- New CDC Guidance
- Provider Relief Fund Advocacy Update
- Long-term Infrastructure Needs
- State Partner Outreach
- How to Take Action



New CDC Guidance

- Yesterday, the CDC released Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination
- The guidance applies to all healthcare personnel while at work and all residents while they are being cared for in a healthcare setting (including assisted living facilities). It is intended for adoption by state and local health departments.
- Argentum provided language in early April specific to visitation policies for assisted living facilities; much of this language was incorporated into the new CDC guidance.



New CDC Guidance

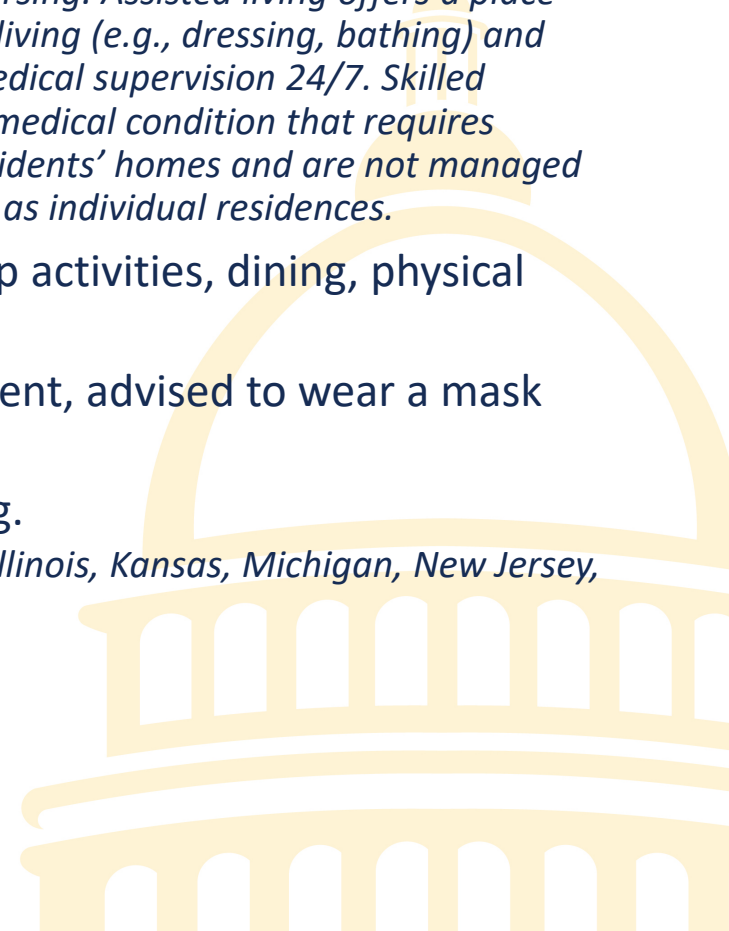
Key Highlights:

- In our recommendations, we advised that guidance should differentiate between SNFs and assisted living – this guidance incorporates that feedback.

Our advisement: Assisted living is different from skilled nursing. Assisted living offers a place where residents receive assistance with activities of daily living (e.g., dressing, bathing) and care for chronic medical conditions that do not require medical supervision 24/7. Skilled nursing facilities are intended for individuals who have a medical condition that requires monitoring. Assisted living apartments are considered residents' homes and are not managed like healthcare facilities. Resident apartments are treated as individual residences.

- Vaccinated residents are cleared for visitation, group activities, dining, physical contact without masking.
- If there are unvaccinated residents (or visitors) present, advised to wear a mask and physically distance.
- Vaccinated staff can skip routine surveillance testing.

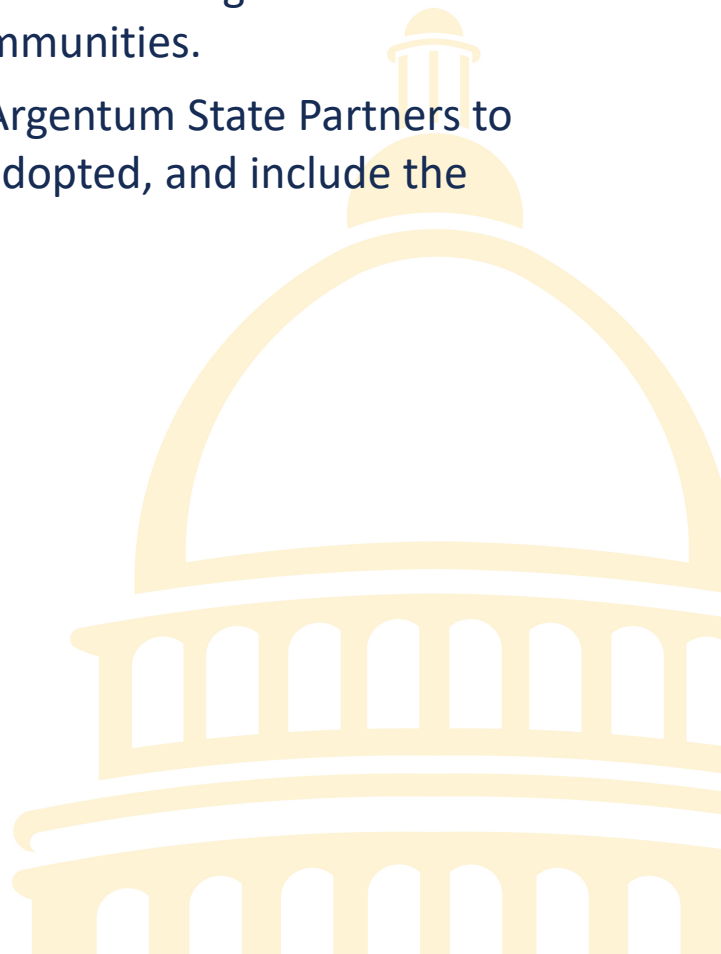
(Testing is still required in at least nine states: Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, West Virginia)



New CDC Guidance

Next Steps:

- Argentum's Vaccine Task Force will be reviewing the new guidance in full.
- We will continue to work closely with the CDC to ensure further guidance is adapted for assisted living and other senior living communities.
- **Call to Action:** Argentum Advocates work with your Argentum State Partners to contact state regulators for the new guidance to be adopted, and include the distinctions between SNF and AL.



Argentum's 2021 Advocacy Focus

- Immediate financial relief
- Facilities opened to recoup losses
- Long-term financial relief
- Protect against intensified federal oversight

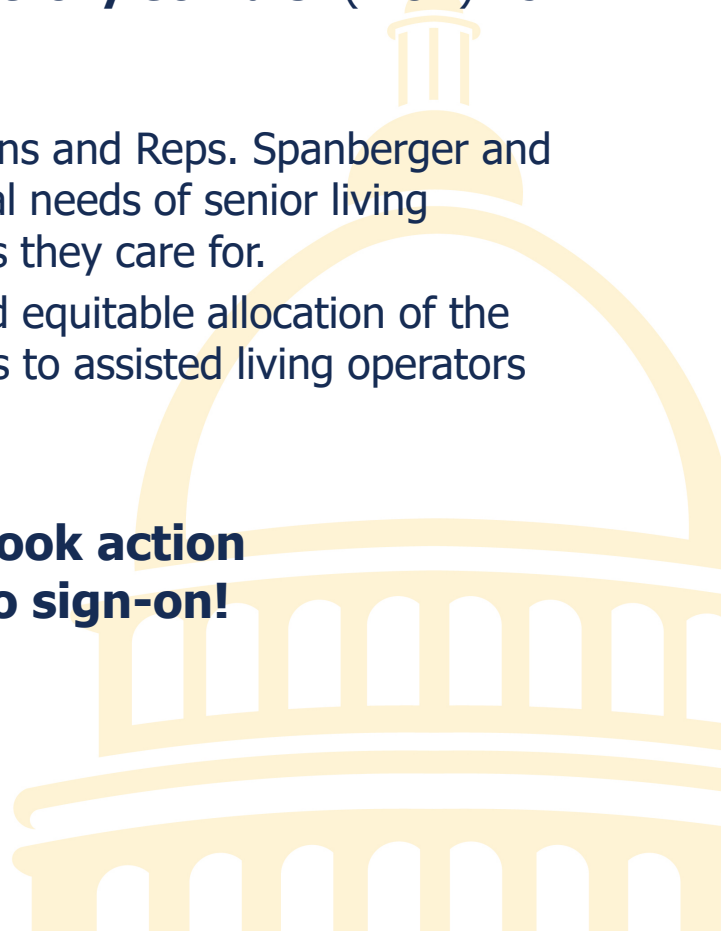


Congressional Sign-on Letter

Bipartisan sign-on letters were sent to the Biden Administration to allocate remaining provider relief fund dollars to senior living providers; letters were led by

- Senators **Kyrsten Sinema** (D-AZ) and **Susan Collins** (R-ME) +23 others
- Representatives **Abigail Spanberger** (D-VA) and **Anthony Gonzalez** (R-OH) +57 others
- Argentum worked directly with Sens. Sinema and Collins and Reps. Spanberger and Gonzalez on these letters, which underscore the critical needs of senior living providers and the nearly two million vulnerable seniors they care for.
- The letters ask the Administration to provide a fair and equitable allocation of the estimated \$23 billion remaining of provider relief funds to assisted living operators that have received comparatively little relief.

**Thank you to everyone who took action
and asked your lawmakers to sign-on!**



Congressional Activity



Senator Steve Daines (R-MT):

Throughout the pandemic, assisted living providers in my home state have cared for over 6,000 vulnerable Montanans, many who are living with Alzheimer's or some form of dementia. Due to PPE needs, workforce needs, occupancy deadlines, I continue to hear that many of these providers have suffered millions in losses throughout the pandemic and will struggle to sustain their operation without financial relief. There's about \$23 billion remaining in the Provider Relief Fund to help support our healthcare heroes who are on the frontlines of COVID response. I've urged Secretary Becerra to distribute more of the remaining PRF to assisted living facilities and of the senior care centers. Ms. Palm, would you support that kind of request?



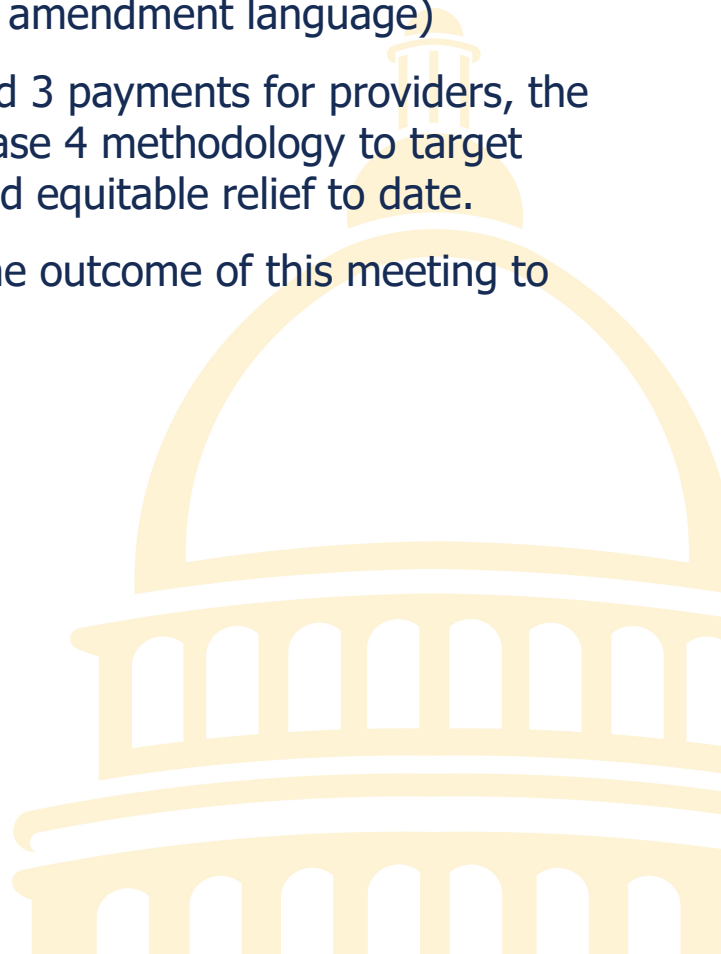
HHS Deputy Secretary nominee Andrea Palm:

Yeah, to your point, our frontline healthcare workers have borne the brunt of this pandemic. When I was in Wisconsin, we added additional dollars to what the feds were providing to help ease the workload and the burden that they were facing.

HRSA Meeting

Argentum is meeting with HRSA Acting Administrator Diana Espinosa tomorrow to review outstanding relief payments to senior living entities and future disbursements.

- The meeting comes with the increasing broad bipartisan support from Congress (sign-on letters, Senator Daines hearing question, ARP amendment language)
- We are specifically asking for clarity on the Phase 2 and 3 payments for providers, the denial and appeals processes, and the forthcoming Phase 4 methodology to target funds to assisted living providers who have not received equitable relief to date.
- **Stay Engaged** - We will share more information on the outcome of this meeting to Argentum Advocates members.



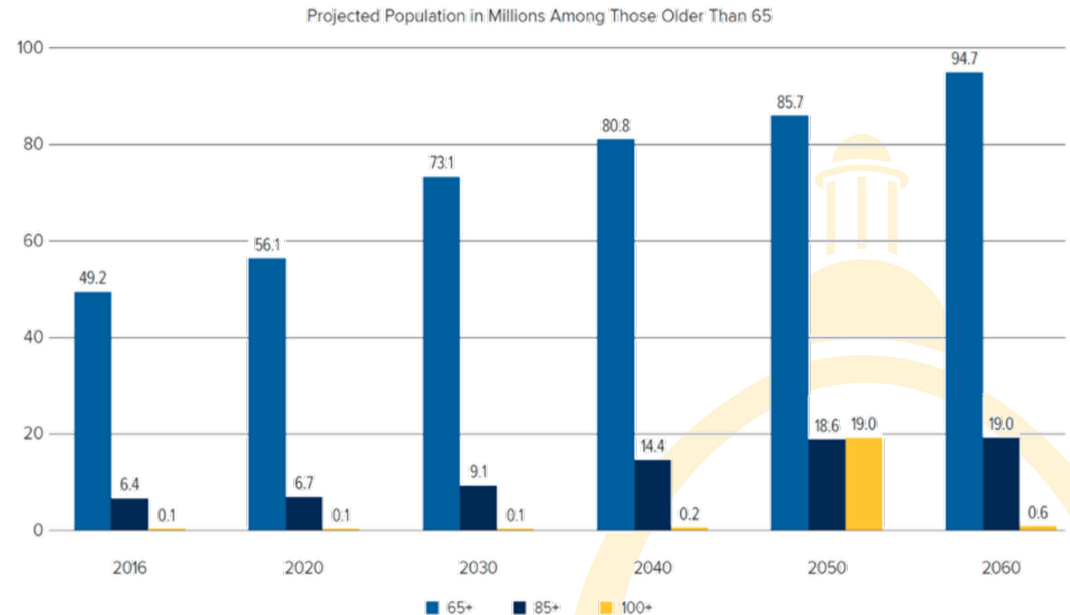
The Next Package: Infrastructure

- Timeline: No longer expected to meet July 4 deadline, likely will be crafted through multiple packages (partisan and bipartisan) over the coming months, and final votes in late summer or early fall.
- President Biden unveiled the “[The American Jobs Plan](#)” last month. The \$2.25 trillion proposal includes significant investments in traditional infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and ports, but also includes approximately \$400 billion toward care for elderly and disabled populations, along with additional funding earmarked for high-speed broadband connectivity.
 - The proposal calls for **\$400 billion toward expanding access to quality, affordable home- or community-based care for seniors** and people with disabilities.
 - The proposal further includes an investment of \$100 billion in broadband technology to reach every American. Investments in broadband technology could be instrumental in our priority for improving connectivity to residents for both telehealth and social purposes. The [LIFT America Act](#) may serve as a core foundation for the broadband elements, which includes \$85 billion to expand broadband access nationwide, \$2 billion for hospital infrastructure (**re-authorizing the Hill-Burton Act**), and \$10.5 billion for community-based care.

The Next Package: Infrastructure

Our Message:
The need for investment in infrastructure for seniors is rapidly growing as our nation ages.

The number of people over age 65 is projected to grow to 94.7 million by 2060, and by age 65, there is a 52% chance that a person will need long-term care during his or her lifetime.



Note: The official population estimates for the United States are shown for 2016; the projections use the Vintage 2016 population estimate for July 1, 2016, as the base population for projecting from 2017 to 2060.

From U.S. Census report: ["Demographic Turning Points for the United States: Population Projections for 2020 to 2060"](#)

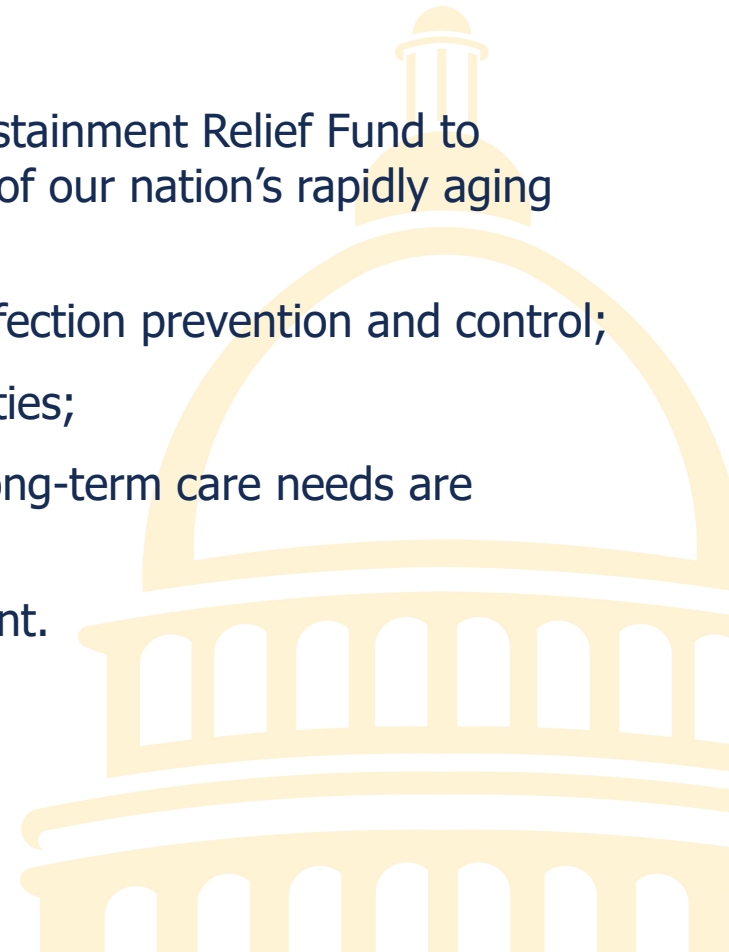
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 National Population Projections.

The Next Package: Infrastructure

Argentum is working with lawmakers to propose the SENIOR Act:
Safeguarding Elderly Needs for Infrastructure and Occupational Resources Act.

The SENIOR Act establishes a Senior Housing and Sustainment Relief Fund to ensure that we can meet the housing and LTC needs of our nation's rapidly aging population; this fund:

- 1) Builds upon critical infrastructure demands for infection prevention and control;
- 2) Invests in LTC broadband and telehealth capabilities;
- 3) Creates a sustainability fund to ensure seniors' long-term care needs are exceeded; and
- 4) Invests in LTC workforce training and development.



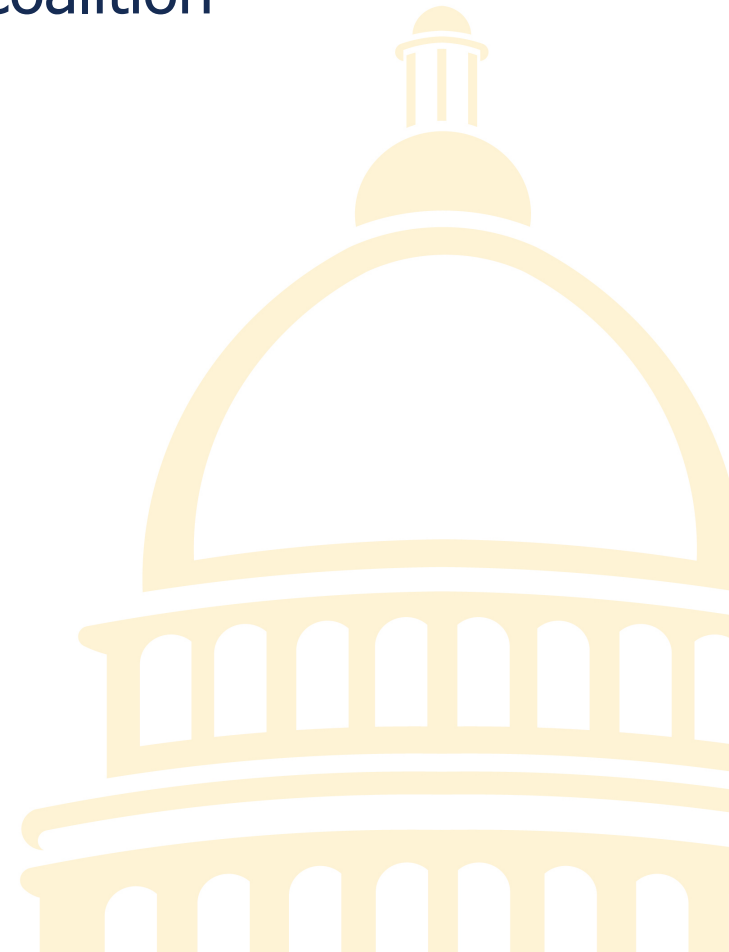
The Next Package: Infrastructure

The SENIOR Act:

- **Provides Resources for Infection Control:** A nation-wide effort should expand on the actions undertaken over the past year, specifically to include air filtration and purification systems, upgraded HVAC units, touchless fixtures and the renovation of common areas for infection control.
- **Improves the Lives of Seniors Through Technology:** Ensure a robust telehealth capacity for LTC residents; improving connectivity and access to telehealth and to reimagine the devices and platforms utilized for connection.
- **Targets Sustainability Dollars to Keep LTC Provider Doors Open:** Inject immediate funding into LTC will bolster a provider's ability to increase occupancy and hire caregivers.
- **Develops Workforce for Senior Housing Sustainment:** Establish an LTC workforce development pilot program that distributes grant funding for evidence-based approaches to increase earnings and create apprenticeships and incentivize positions becoming careers, rather than temporary employment opportunities.

The Next Package: Infrastructure

- Next Steps for the SENIOR Act
- LTC Industry needs and working in coalition
- How Argentum Advocates can help



State Advocacy Efforts

Presentation by:

Frances Messer, President & CEO North Carolina Assisted Living Association

Frances Messer, RN, BSN, has more than 50 years of healthcare experience. She is a graduate of Western Carolina University. Frances worked at NC DHHS, DHSR, Adult Care Licensure Section for several years as a state surveyor and trainer immediately prior to becoming the NCALA President and CEO. Additionally, she has worn many hats in the skilled nursing and assisted living industry as a former nursing home owner and Administrator and Director of Nursing. She is also a certified Assisted Living Administrator. Prior to joining NC DHHS, Frances was President of Beacon Health Care Services, Inc.



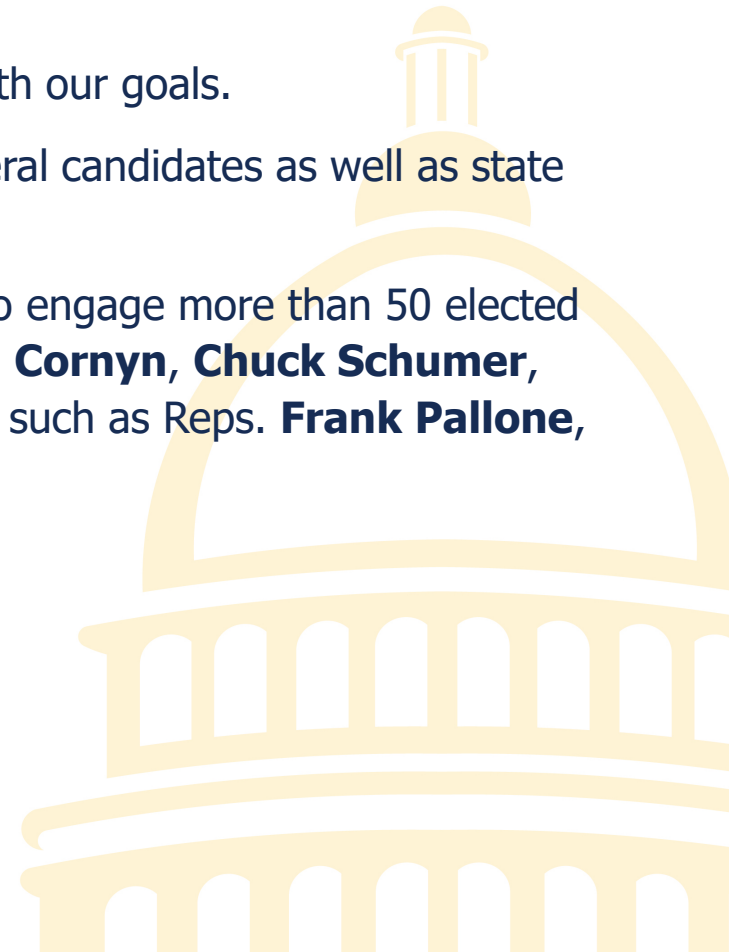


Member Benefits

- Timely briefings on the latest federal legislative and regulatory information that you need to know
- Exclusive seminars on teaching *advocacy skills and how to best educate your federal leaders* on the needs of the senior living industry through Argentum's Leadership Forum
- Key access, analysis, and insight into the federal process including *opportunities to submit Congressional testimony* to directly impact the legislative process, and opportunities to submit comments regarding proposed regulations
- Federal and state legislator contact information
- Assistance *scheduling meetings* directly with congressional delegations, as well as *talking points and data points*
- Access to Congressional action alerts tailored to senior living
- Exclusive invitation to Silver PAC, a political action force dedicated exclusively to advancing the needs of senior living providers

Have You Made Your Pledge?

- Argentum's Silver PAC is a *non-partisan* fund used to support lawmakers and candidates who understand the senior living industry, and who *support our goals of increasing access to and affordability of quality senior living care and services*
- Silver PAC allows us to support candidates aligned with our goals.
- Silver PAC is the only industry PAC that supports federal candidates as well as state PACs
- Last year, contributions to the PAC made it possible to engage more than 50 elected officials, including Senators **Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Chuck Schumer, Dick Durbin**, and key members of House leadership such as Reps. **Frank Pallone, Katherine Clark**, and **Jim McGovern**.



Have You Made Your Pledge?

Contribution Levels:

SILVER CIRCLE - \$5,000 within a calendar year

TRUSTEE CIRCLE - \$3,000 or more within a calendar year

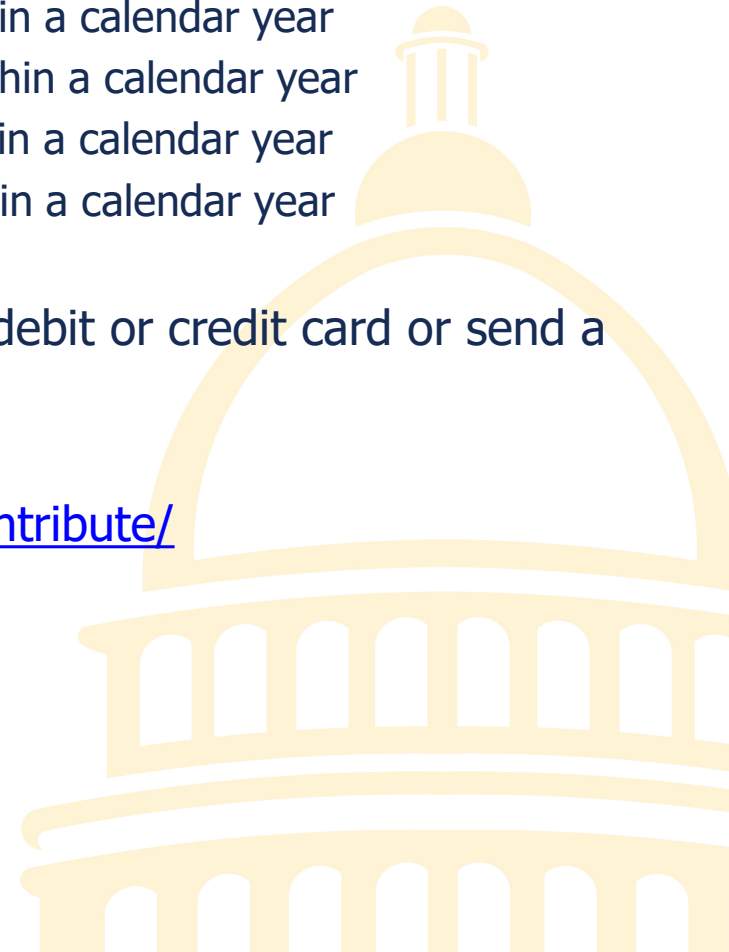
CHAIRMAN CIRCLE - \$1,000 or more within a calendar year

DIRECTOR CIRCLE - \$500 or more within a calendar year

ADVOCATE CIRCLE - \$100 or more within a calendar year

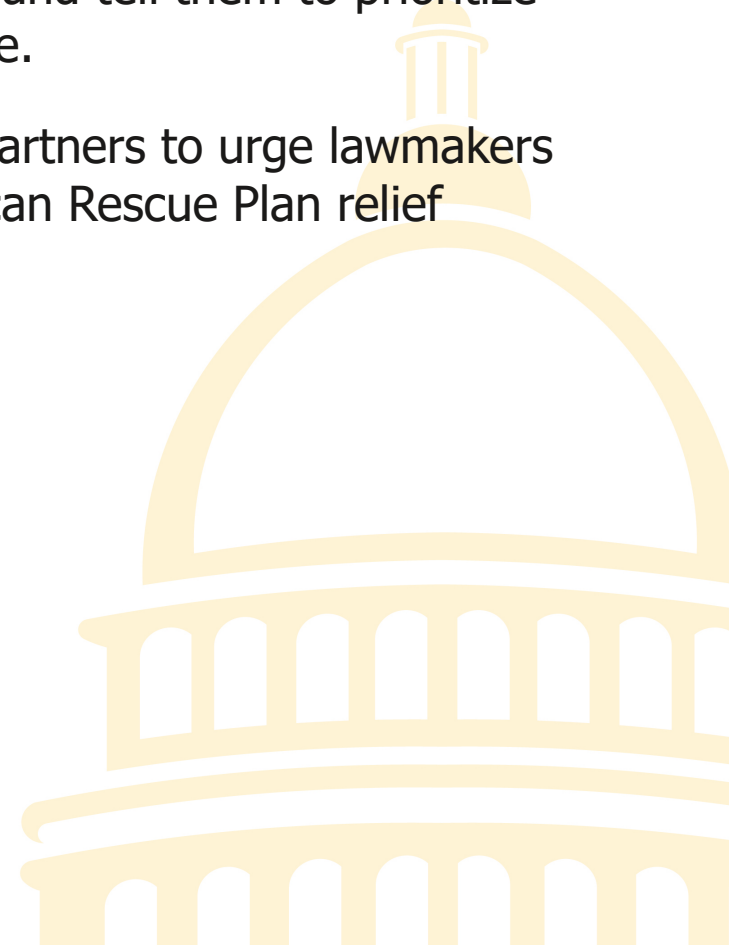
Individuals can contribute online using a personal debit or credit card or send a personal check to Argentum Silver PAC.

<https://www.argentum.org/advocacy/silver-pac/contribute/>



Take Action!

- **CDC Guidance:** Work with your State Partners on adopting the new guidance with your state and local regulators.
- **Infrastructure:** Call Congress (202-225-3121) and tell them to prioritize long-term care infrastructure in the next package.
- **State-based Funding:** Work with your State Partners to urge lawmakers and policymakers to allocate state-based American Rescue Plan relief funding to providers.



Questions?



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