

Argentum President and CEO James Balda submitted the following letter to *The New York Times* in response to the “Dying Broke” series.

To the Editor

The series “Dying Broke” describes the costly nature of long-term care as healthcare and other expenses have increased. It also recognizes assisted living as more cost-effective than nursing homes and in-home care.

If assisted living were not an option, states and the federal government would [spend](#) an additional \$43.4 billion annually on Medicaid. The Veterans Affairs Department estimates that it could save \$69,000 per veteran per year if they offered an assisted living benefit instead of just a nursing home benefit when appropriate.

But the series fails to recognize that senior residents and their families overwhelmingly love assisted living.

Our communities promote independence and dignity through care and socialization - - encouraging pets, physical and mental activity, social excursions and purpose, all within the secure environment of their home. In fact, 99% of seniors feel safe and 75% say their quality of life improved. Independent surveyor [J.D. Power](#) recently found that residents and their families are overwhelmingly satisfied.

More seniors should have access to the quality care our communities provide. State and federal policymakers must create more options for seniors, such as expanding Medicaid, modernizing tax savings programs to include long-term care, and increasing availability of long-term care insurance.

James Balda,

President and CEO

Argentum

About Argentum

Argentum is the leading national association exclusively dedicated to supporting companies operating professionally managed, resident-centered senior living communities and the older adults and families they serve. Since 1990, Argentum has advocated for choice, independence, dignity, and quality of life for all older adults.

Argentum member companies operate senior living communities offering assisted living, independent living, continuing care, and memory care services. Along with its state partners, Argentum’s membership represents approximately 75 percent of the senior living industry—an industry with a national economic impact of nearly a quarter of a trillion dollars and responsible for providing over 1.6 million jobs. These numbers will continue to grow as the U.S. population ages.