



American Health Care Association



National Center for Assisted Living

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## **AHCA/NCAL: Seniors' Access to Long Term Care Must be Protected**

**Washington, DC** – Governor Mark Parkinson, President & CEO of the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) released the following statement today in response to the House Republican FY2012 budget proposal:

“AHCA/NCAL understands the importance of addressing our nation’s growing debt and deficit and appreciates the challenges lawmakers face in reducing both. Still, our first responsibility is to ensure that America’s seniors who rely on Medicaid can continue to receive the long term care they need.

“One million patients require long term care through Medicaid every day. In 2010, Medicaid underfunded nursing facilities by \$5.6 billion, or \$17 per patient, per day. We owe it to these patients to find a workable solution while still meeting their critical care needs.

“A healthy economy means a healthy Medicaid program. Further, we must ensure that the 3.1 million Americans working in long term care facilities today can continue providing for the medically frail elderly and individuals with disabilities.

“We look forward to working with Chairman Ryan, the committees of jurisdiction and other Congressional leaders in the coming weeks to protect our commitment to the Greatest Generation today, and for generations to come.”