



September 26, 2025

The Honorable Lloyd Smucker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Smucker:

On behalf of the American Seniors Housing Association (ASHA), I want to thank you for your leadership in introducing the *Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act*. ASHA strongly supports this important legislation, which creates a practical, bipartisan pathway to address the severe workforce shortages facing our nation—particularly in senior living and long-term care settings.

ASHA is a national organization of more than 500 senior living companies that own, operate, or provide services to approximately 7,000 communities across the U.S. These communities serve a wide range of older adults—from those who need minimal support with daily activities such as bathing, eating, and dressing, to those living with advanced Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia who require extensive, round-the-clock care. To meet the needs of this growing population, our country needs an immigration policy that recognize the essential role immigrants play in the caregiving workforce.

Today, critical frontline positions in senior living—caregiving, nursing support, dining services, and housekeeping—are not eligible for visas under the current system. Because these roles are neither temporary nor seasonal, they fall outside the scope of existing programs like the H-2B visa, leaving senior housing and care providers without access to a legal workforce solution. The *Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act* directly addresses this gap by creating a new visa category tailored to industries like senior living that depend on a stable, year-round workforce.

The demand for long-term care workers is a pressing national issue. The 85+ population will more than double to 13.7 million by 2040. Between 2021 and 2031, the long-term care sector alone will need to fill 8.9 million direct care positions, including both new roles and those left vacant by workers retiring or leaving the field. Already, providers across the country struggle to recruit and retain enough caregivers. Without new pathways to bring essential workers into our communities, older Americans will face fewer options for the quality care they deserve.

The *Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act* provides the tools we need to build that workforce. By creating a legal channel for essential workers to enter and remain in the U.S., this bill will strengthen the caregiving infrastructure on which so many American families depend.

We deeply appreciate your leadership in addressing this critical issue and urge your colleagues in Congress to join you in advancing this important legislation. Please reach out to Jeanne McGlynn Delgado, ASHA VP of Government Affairs, at jeanne@ashaliving.org with any questions. We look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead to make this solution a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Schless".

David Schless
President & CEO