



2008 Legislative Priorities

Florida Assisted Living Association (FALA) is a strong, unified, professional organization representing the owners and operators of assisted living communities and adult family care homes. FALA is a leader in the assisted living profession in providing the required education for assisted living administrator. In addition, we provide continuing education for administrators and the basic caregiver education. Our goal is promote excellence in assisted living.

Florida Assisted Living Association will focus on the following issues for 2008

Property Tax Relief

Property taxes have increased over 80% and many assisted living facilities are faced with the possibility of closing due to the inability to pay high property tax assessments. Particularly hard hit are the smaller facilities with limited budgets that care for individuals on limited incomes and that receive state/federal funding. These facilities play a vital role by providing appropriate care in the least restrictive and more affordable settings for many low income seniors. The loss of these facilities would force many individuals into a more costly nursing home setting. FALA supports initiatives for relief of increased property taxes for assisted living facilities.

Increase Funding for the following programs: Assistive Care Services Waiver, Assisted Living for the Elderly Waiver, and Nursing Home Diversion

In accordance with FALA's mission, ensuring that residents are placed in the most appropriate setting is vital to the well being of Florida's elders. The State's objective of providing appropriate care in the least restrictive and costly setting for Medicaid recipients is furthered by increasing funding for these programs. All of these programs have saved the Medicaid program significant dollars. FALA supports increased funding for the Assistive Care Services Waiver, the Assisted Living for the Elderly Waiver, and the Nursing Home Diversion Program.

Florida Senior Care

FALA continues to partner with AARP and other private organizations to find a better senior health care delivery system. FALA will also work with the appropriate Senate and House committees, the Department of Elder Affairs, and the Agency for Health Care Administration toward the same goal.

Specialty Licenses

FALA supports allowing nurses to practice to the full scope of their license under Florida Statute 464. In addition, we would support a pilot project that would offer cost savings to the state by allowing nurses to provide services that now have to be outsourced to a home health care at an additional cost.

Mission

To advocate for appropriate resident care through professional support and partnerships.

1922 Miccosukee Road • Tallahassee, FL 32308

850-383-1159 • 850-224-0448 Fax

www.falausea.com