

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 7, 2007

Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes
c/o Bruce Yarwood
President
American Health Care Association
1201 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes Founding Organizations:

After attending your Quality Summit last September as the Keynote Speaker, I was struck by your organization's effort to improve the quality of care and quality of life of those living in America's nursing homes. It is exciting to see such a broad coalition of organizations committed to the goal of helping those living and recuperating in nursing homes. Too often our nation's seniors and persons with disabilities are left behind. It will take the continued effort and vigilance of your organization, as well as families, caregivers, nursing home advocates, government and consumers, to enhance their quality of care and quality of life.

I am particularly impressed with the diversity of the Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes membership. The efforts of all your sponsors, including long-term care providers, caregivers, medical and quality improvement experts, government agencies and consumers, are bringing us closer to the goal of enhancing the quality of care in America's nursing homes. Equally impressive is the transparency this new organization is promoting and the quality improvement goals it set for nursing homes. These are essential components in creating the ongoing measurements that are necessary in evaluating performance. I was also delighted to learn that all the information gathered through this effort will be contained in a database.

I applaud the work of the Advancing Excellence coalition and look forward to your continued productivity. However, in order to be truly successful, we must continue to work together to encourage the participation of those nursing homes that most need to improve.

Thank you for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

*Thanks for
your presight!*



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator