

# **The Cost of Caring**

## **Leading Age Kansas**

### **Network Action Item - URGENT**

**We need your help** in educating the Governor, Lt Governor, and other state and local leaders. Join us at the Lt. Governor's Office of Rural Prosperity action tour stops, and make your voice heard! If we all turn out and tell our story, it will be difficult to overlook the important issues we are currently facing in our long-term care communities across the state.

See below for tour dates and possible key issues for awareness. However, please share your specific stories and concerns for greatest impact. The statewide meeting is **THIS Friday, August 22 - you must register**. If a tour date has already occurred, it's not too late. You can provide additional feedback online.

These efforts are occurring as a concerted statewide campaign called The Cost of Caring - more info coming soon. You play a critical role in making sure our staff, residents, and industry as a whole, has a voice. Not only is it vital during the current pandemic, but for the future! Thanks for lending your voice to this important effort.

### **How You Can Help**

1. Register for a meeting in your region, or for the statewide meeting.
2. List key issues for your community, and also leave a question. This will be officially logged and reported, so the more individuals who register and provide feedback on this topic, provide a greater opportunity to be heard as a group.
3. If the meeting in your region has already occurred, please click on your region, then click on the meeting survey. This will allow you to provide more information on what you want them to know about how this industry is being impacted by lack of support.

Rural Prosperity 2020 Action Tours - Lt. Governor (in-person or via website)

[www.ruralkanprosper.ks.gov/tours/](http://www.ruralkanprosper.ks.gov/tours/)

Action Tour Dates:

North-Central 8/6 (complete survey)

Northwest 8/12 (complete survey)

Southwest 8/25 (register and attend virtually - fill out survey)

South-Central 9/12 (register and attend virtually - fill out survey)

Southeast 9/9 (register and attend virtually - fill out survey)

Northeast 9/16 (register and attend virtually - fill out survey)

STATEWIDE 8/22 (register and attend virtually - fill out survey)

KEY ISSUES (examples - be sure to use specific local examples):

- Ensure workers in our long-term care communities have appropriate PPE
- Ensure residents and workers in long-term care communities have adequate access to COVID-19 Testing
- Lack of support now is a ripple effect, causing workforce issues for years to come. If there appears to be lack of support for individuals in this field, then why would anyone want to go into it as a career.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS (examples, but please tailor to your local experience)

- Everyone has been hit hard by COVID, but long-term care residences in our communities are extremely vulnerable. Many have already been hit by outbreaks due to a lack of support. We can't afford for this to continue. Can we get your support to ensure resources are available?
- Our most vulnerable Kansans deserve better. Staff in these homes care deeply for those they see on a daily basis. The cost of caring shouldn't come with risking your own health, or even worse, be a death sentence. Yet individuals who go to work in these conditions, do just that every day! Please help us make sure they have adequate PPE, and testing should be easily available to staff and residents who are new, or come back into the home after being discharged from a local hospital or healthcare clinic.
- If something isn't done to provide better support, the cost of not caring will extend beyond our current situation. We already have a hard time recruiting a qualified workforce to these homes. It will become even more difficult in the future if we don't do a better job of supporting them now. People will simply not want to go into this career