



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor  
Andrea Palm, Secretary

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March 20, 2020

Douglas O'Brien  
Regional Director, CMS Chicago Regional Office  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Chicago Regional Office  
233 N. Michigan Avenue Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

On behalf of the Wisconsin State Survey Agency (SA) and the Wisconsin State Medicaid Agency, I send this letter of support for the request submitted by the Wisconsin nursing home trade associations, LeadingAge-Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Health Care Association on March 18, 2020.

Wisconsin's 300-plus nursing facilities and skilled nursing facilities serve an invaluable role in providing care and services our most vulnerable citizens – our elderly and persons with disabilities who reside in these settings – need to live their best life. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, facilities are in urgent need of the flexibilities outlined in their request in order to continue and enhance their services. CMS has signaled an openness to these kind of flexibilities by granting two blanket waivers for this sector, and we appreciate your consideration of these requests as well. Once conditions return to normal, the waivers sought will no longer be necessary.

I, therefore, offer my support for CMS granting the exceptions identified in the request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Palm", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrea Palm  
Secretary-Designee