



## In-Depth

Oct. 19, 2011

Connect



*A semi-monthly broadcast of fiscal, policy and regulatory news & analysis as it affects providers of senior housing, care and services.*

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### Top Stories

#### **Aging Services Meets With Washington's Congressional Delegation**

Members and CEO Deb Murphy met with the entirety of our state's congressional delegation Monday and Tuesday of this week, expressing the urgency of their commitment NOT to pass additional Medicare or Medicaid cuts on to nursing homes...

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#### **CLASS Act Support Waning?**

Last Friday, October 14, the CLASS Act was reported to be withdrawn from further consideration by the President and Health & Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. The announcement, coming at the start of the LeadingAge 50th Annual Conference, could not have been more poorly timed given the high priority the Association has placed on this legislation.

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#### **Denial, Less Demand And Dull Selling = Falling Occupancies**

Register now for the Aging Services Marketing & Sales Workshop, designed for Assisted Living, CCRCs, Nursing Homes and Independent Senior Living:

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#### **Introducing Aging Services New Website**

We know you'll like our new look and the ease in which you'll be able to locate news and information. It's the same web address: [www.agingwa.org](http://www.agingwa.org). Let us know how you like it.

## **Postponement of NLRB Notice Requirement!**

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has postponed the implementation date for its new notice-posting rule by more than two months. The new effective date of the rule is Jan. 31, 2012, NOT Nov. 14, 2011.

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## **State News**

### **LeadingAge Conference/Washington Night Reception**

Thank you to our generous co-sponsors for making Washington's State Night a Success: Ziegler Capital Markets, Infiniti Rehab, Vital Research, GLY Construction, Larson Allen and ThirdAge.

### **Boarding Home Guidebook Training -Yakima Class Has Openings**

The Everett and SeaTac sites are sold out; Yakima still has limited seats available. You'll want to attend this important training, delivered by DSHS, on resident protection and what essentially is the new 'purple book' for assisted living/boarding home providers.

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### **A Reminder: Some Professional Licensing Fees Increasing December 1**

HB 1087, passed during the 2011 legislative session, made mandatory several license fee increases for some of the professions regulated by the Department of Health.

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### **The Minimum Wage In Washington Rises to \$9.04 On January 1, 2012**

### **Z0250 - Alternate State RUG**

Effective 11/1/11, the State of Washington will no longer be collecting data on Alternate State RUG 48.

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## **Federal News**

### **Is Your Website ADA-Compliant?**

Federal watchdogs recently announced plans to scrutinize employer websites to make sure they aren't violating accessibility standards for the vision and hearing impaired under new ADA regulations.

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### **New Food And Dining Standards Of Practice To Be Submitted To CMS**

National agreement has been reached on new food and dining standards of practice that support individualized care and self-directed living versus traditional diagnosis-focused treatment for people living in nursing homes. You can read them here:

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## **Our Message To Congress: Medicare And Medicaid Nursing Facility Funding**

Nursing Facilities Can Not Absorb Additional Medicare and Medicaid Cuts; Support H.R. 1543 & S. 818 and Allow Seniors to Keep Their Eligibility Benefits for Medicare Nursing Facility Stays.

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## **Our Message to Congress: Senior Housing & Supportive Services**

Access to affordable housing and supportive services for modest and low income seniors must be considered an important component of an integrated approach to a cost effective and functional health and long term care system.

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## **Our Message To Congress: Retain The CLASS Act**

The CLASS Act: A Financing Solution

Implementation of the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) program is one important component of a relevant, healthy long term care and supportive services system for seniors.

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Your feedback is important to us.

Should you have questions, comments or would like assistance with any of the issues discussed in this email, please contact Julie Martin, Director of Senior Living & Community Services at [jmartin@agingwa.org](mailto:jmartin@agingwa.org)

Aging Services of Washington | 1570 Wilmington Drive, Ste 220 | DuPont, WA 98327 | 253.964.8870

Check out our new website!

[www.agingwa.org](http://www.agingwa.org)