



LeadingAge California CEO Joins Vice President Pence at White House to Discuss National Nursing Home Commission's Recommendations

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Washington, DC – Today, LeadingAge California President and CEO Jeannee Parker Martin joined Vice President Mike Pence and members of the national Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes at the White House. The group met for a roundtable discussion on opportunities to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts in skilled nursing and issues impacting the nation's older adult care system.

"COVID-19 has exposed many flaws in our nation's approach to caring for older adults, including longstanding chronic underfunding, a lack of access to staff and training, and more recently a poorly coordinated response and distribution of PPE, testing and resources needed to protect vulnerable adults," said Martin. "While the administration has responded with some effort, there is much more to be done to improve the quality and care for the 1.2 million residents in more than 15,000 nursing homes across the country."

Martin was one of 25 commissioners who worked collaboratively over the summer as part of the Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes to assess nursing home response to the pandemic. The group helped develop recommendations to protect older adults and support care providers during COVID-19. The final [report](#) was released to the public yesterday.

Key recommendations from the commission's report include:

- An overhaul of the CNA workforce management system, including the creation of a National Long-Term Care Workforce Commission, competitive grant programs, national scholarships and federally-backed hazard pay to catalyze interest;
- An immediate, federally-funded national testing strategy that prioritizes nursing homes and develops a central point for coordinating distribution of tests and supplies; and
- Uninhibited access to high quality PPE and an established national best practice training for PPE use.

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About LeadingAge California: *Founded in 1961, LeadingAge California is the state's leading advocate for quality, non-profit senior living and care. The association's advocacy, educational programs and public relations help its members best serve the needs of more than 120,000 of the state's older adults. LeadingAge California represents nearly 700 nonprofit providers of senior living and care – including affordable housing, continuing care retirement communities, assisted living, skilled nursing, and home and community-based care; as well as our business partners. For more information, visit www.leadingageca.org.*