

Tennessee News Service

A statewide news service for Tennessee

Producer: Dan Gordon, 707 Main St., #118, Nashville, TN, 37206 Ph: Fax: 208-247-1830 E-mail: tns@newsservice.org

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Two National Groups Rate TN Nursing Home Care Substandard

Thirty Percent of State Homes Get Poorest Rating

Nashville, TN – As state legislation dealing with nursing home care in Tennessee is being considered, the American Association of Retired People has released a report* stating that nursing home care in Tennessee is substandard. Last year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ranked Tennessee's nursing homes forty-seventh in the nation and gave thirty percent of them the worst rating possible. Comments from Daniel Clayton, President of the Tennessee Association for Justice.

Intro: Two national groups say Tennessee nursing home care is substandard. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rank Tennessee's nursing homes forty-seventh in the nation and give thirty percent of them the worst rating possible. The AARP has just released a report calling for improvement in the state's nursing home industry. Daniel Clayton, President of the Tennessee Association for Justice says the AARP report is significant.

:06 *"We agree with the AARP that quality of care must be improved in Tennessee nursing homes. "*

Tag: The TAJ is in favor of AARP-supported legislation that would address both staffing and oversight of nursing homes.

Second Cut: The TAJ does NOT approve of pending legislation that some lawmakers say would improve care by capping the amount nursing homes could be sued for, which they say would discourage frivolous lawsuits. Daniel Clayton says a system to deal with frivolous lawsuits already exists.

:06 *"There are mechanisms in place, it's called Rule 11 sanctions, that punish lawyers if they file frivolous lawsuits."*

Tag 1: Yesterday (TUESDAY), The Tennessee Department of Health suspended admissions to a Winchester, TN nursing home. Golden Living Center Mountain View was ordered yesterday not to admit new residents after state inspectors found numerous violations.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses both soundbite(s)

LEDE: Two national groups say Tennessee nursing home care is substandard. Dan Gordon has details.

1:21 *Outcue...Dan Gordon reporting*

Note to Editors: Daniel Clayton can be reached at 615-329-3000 AARP commissioned the report by The Lewin Group, a Virginia-based health care policy and consulting firm, in response to the state nursing home industry's legislation.