

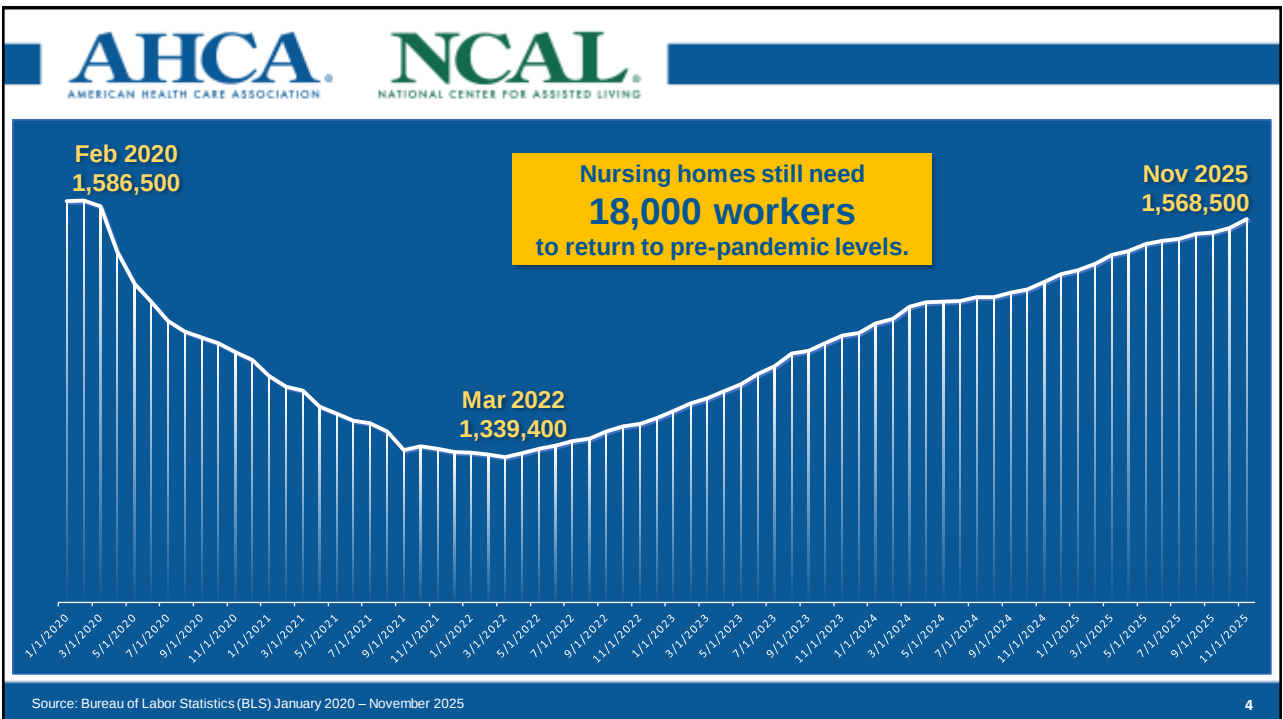
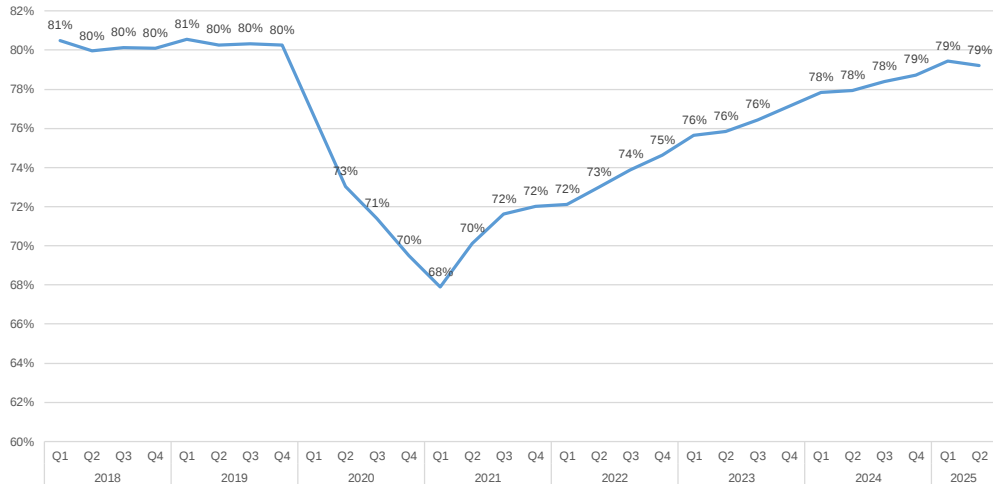
2026: What to Expect in Congress

Christopher Donnellan
Senior Director, Government Relations



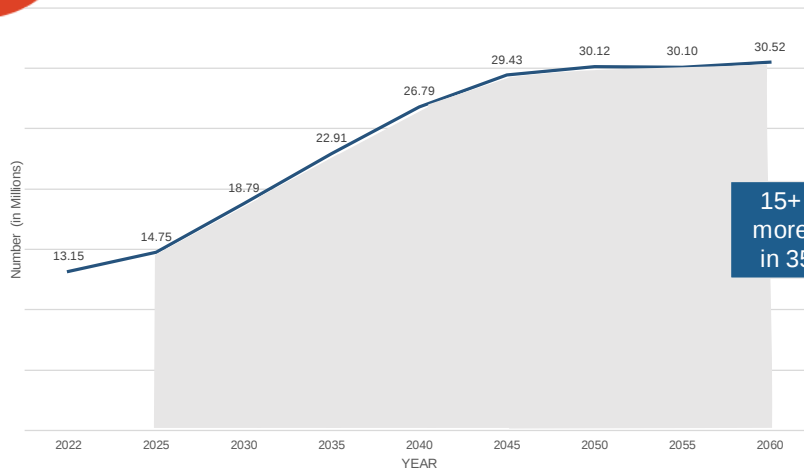
Industry Trends

SNF Occupancy (PBJ)





Population Projections of 80+ Year Olds from 2022-2060

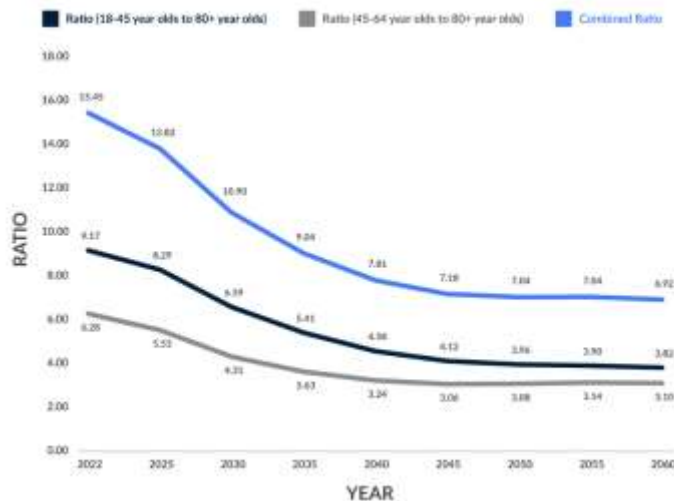


15+ million more people in 35 years



Data Source: US Census Bureau 2023 National Population Projections

The Future Workforce



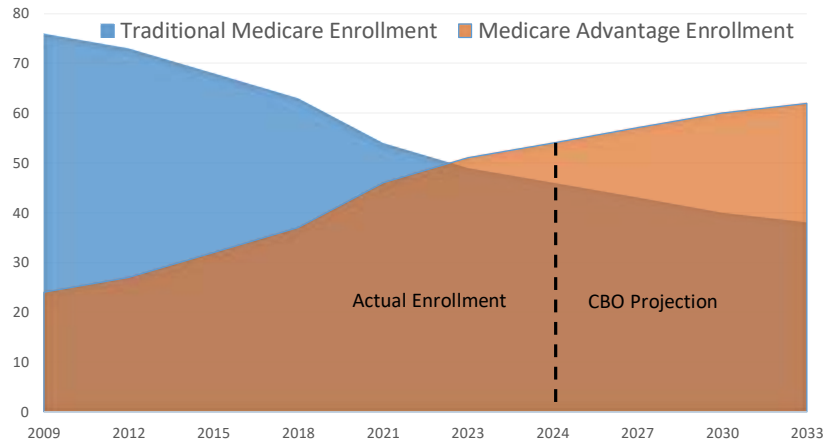
This graph demonstrates the declining ratios of 18–44-year-olds to 80+ year olds and 45–64-year-olds to 80+ year olds in the United States, indicating the need for caregivers as our population ages.



Data Source: US Census Bureau 2023 National Population Projections



Medicare Advantage is Now the Majority – Projections (2024-2033)



SOURCE: KFF analysis, Medicare Choice Conditions (COW) Data Warehouse from 5 percent of beneficiaries, 2010-2016; COW data from 20 percent of beneficiaries, 2017-2020, and Medicare Enrollment Dashboard (MEDI) 2023. Enrollment numbers from March of the respective year. Projections for 2024 to 2033 are from the May Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Median Baseline for 2033. • KFF



Political Landscape



Key Dates

- Jan 30: Government Funding Deadline
- Mar 3: First Congressional Primary
- May 5: Ohio Primary Elections
- Sept 30: Fiscal Year 2026 Ends
- Nov 3: Midterm Elections



Political Landscape

- Senate – Republican Controlled
 - 53 Republicans
 - 45 Democrats
 - 2 Independents (Caucus w/Democrats)
- House of Representatives – Republican Controlled
 - 218 Republicans
 - 213 Democrats
 - 4 Vacant Seats





Senate Leadership

- Republicans
 - Majority Leader: John Thune (SD)
 - Majority Whip: John Barrasso (WY)
 - Conference Chair: Tom Cotton (AR)
 - Policy Chair: Shelley Moore Capito (WV)
- Democrats
 - Minority Leader: Chuck Schumer (NY)
 - Minority Whip: Dick Durbin (IL)
 - Policy Chair: Amy Klobuchar (MN)
 - Communications Chair: Cory Booker (NJ)



House Leadership

- Republicans
 - House Speaker: Mike Johnson (LA)
 - Majority Leader: Steve Scalise (LA)
 - Majority Whip: Tom Emmer (MN)
 - Conference Chair: Lisa McClain (MI)
- Democrats
 - Minority Leader: Hakeem Jeffries (NY)
 - Minority Whip: Katherine Clark (MA)
 - Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar (CA)
 - Policy Chair: Debbie Dingell (MI)





Key Committees

House of Representatives

- Energy & Commerce
 - Chair: Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02)
 - Ranking Member: Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06)
- Appropriations
 - Chair: Tom Cole (R-OK-04)
 - Ranking Member: Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-03)
- Ways & Means
 - Chair: Jason Smith (R-MO-08)
 - Ranking Member: Richard Neal (D-MA-01)

Senate

- Finance
 - Chair: Mike Crapo (R-ID)
 - Ranking Member: Ron Wyden (D-OR)



Ohio Key Committee Members

House of Representatives

Energy & Commerce

- Bob Latta (R-05)
- Troy Balderson (R-12)
- Michael Rulli (R-06)
- Greg Landsman (D-01)

Appropriations

- Dave Joyce (R-14)
- Marcy Kaptur (D-19)

Ways & Means

- Mike Carey (R-15)
- Max Miller (R-07)

Senate

HELP

- John Husted (R)





Midterm Elections



2026 House Races

- All House seats are in play
- Republican House Members
 - 7 Retiring
 - 7 Running for Senate
 - 11 Running for State Roles
- Democrats House Members
 - 11 Retiring
 - 7 Running for Senate
 - 1 Running for State Role



2026 Senate Races

- 35 Senate seats are in play
- Republicans
 - 22 Incumbents
 - 4 Retiring
 - 2 Running for Governor
- Democrat
 - 13 Incumbents
 - 4 Retiring
 - 1 Running for Governor



AHCA Priorities



AHCA Priorities

- Protect entitlements (Medicaid)
- The Better Way: Rationalize regulatory environment
- Medicare Advantage reform
- Workforce development



The Better Way 2026 Policy Agenda

- Strengthening the long term care workforce
- Reaffirming the promise of Medicare Advantage
- Rationalizing the regulatory environment
- Supporting states at the local level with Medicaid





Regulatory Results & Progress

- Revalidation reporting delayed until indefinitely
- AHCA has submitted **45 Better Way proposals** to the Trump Administration
- CMP Reinvestment Program improvements
- Third Standard Survey dropped from the Five Star Health Inspection Rating
- Numerous sets of **extensive comments** submitted to multiple federal agencies' Requests for Information and proposed rules:
 - White House – Unlawful Regulations
 - Office of Management & Budget – Deregulation
 - Department of Justice – Anticompetitive Regulations Taskforce
 - CMS – Medicare Regulatory Relief
 - HHS – Deregulation
 - CDC – Paperwork Reduction Act
- **Ongoing conversations and meetings** with Administration officials



Workforce Legislation

- Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S. 2759/H.R. 5283)
- Train More Nurses Act (S. 547/H.R. 5052)
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Workforce Improvement Act (H.R. 3471)
- Caring for Seniors Act (H.R. 3000)
- Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act (pending introduction)





MA Key Priorities

- Prior Authorization
- Audits
- Concurrent Review
- Adequate Payment Rates



MA Legislation

- [Prompt Pay](#) (S. 2879/H.R. 5454, Sens. Cortez Masto/Blackburn)
- [Prompt and Fair Pay](#) (H.R. 4559, Reps. Doggett/Murphy)
- [Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act 2025](#) (H.R. 3514, Rep Kelly and several others)





Grassroots & Advocacy



Facility Tours for Elected Officials

- Critical role in AHCA/NCAL's education and legislative efforts
- Enable policy makers to see firsthand issues that affect our industry and how their constituents are impacted by decisions made in Washington, DC, the state house, or City Hall
- One of our profession's **BEST** grassroots lobbying tools
- Contact AHCA Government Relations staff for assistance and visit www.ahcancal.org/advocacy



Political Involvement

How Can You Get Involved with the AHCA PAC and Political Programs?

- ✓ Make a personal or corporate contribution!
- ✓ Host/attend a political fundraising event
 - Check out AHCA's PAC website for tools
- ✓ Stay informed about PAC & political activities
- ✓ Attend AHCA/NCAL Advocacy & PAC Membership Events in 2026!



Congressional Briefing 2026



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