

# Joella Francis, RN

#### Career spans over 50 years, Francis now works at Pioneer Tech. Center in Ponca City.

story by Van Mitchell, Staff Writer

Joella Francis credits God for leading her into a RN nursing career that has spanned over 50 years, including today at age 79, where she continues to work part-time at Pioneer Technology Center in Ponca

"I will be a nurse forever. I would never change my vocation," she said. "I give all my credit to Jesus Christ because I'm a Christian, and so He has led me and guided me all the way. He gives me the ability to have, I think, a real love towards patients and people. I couldn't do it without the Lord. I haven't always given Him credit, but now when I look back on my life, I'm almost 80, I know He was there and guiding me all the way."

Francis' nursing journey began at a young age.

"My grandmother on my dad's side was a dietary aide at Wesley

Hospital in Wichita, and I would go with her when she passed snacks to patients. I couldn't go in the rooms, but I could help her get the snacks ready and be up on the floors when we passed them to the patients. That is where I got my first thoughts that I might want to be a nurse."

Francis graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1966. During her education, she worked as a student nurse for OU Children's Hospital for \$8 per shift as a junior and \$10 per shift as a senior nursing student. She met her husband Richard during her time at OU and they were married when she was a junior in nursing school.

After graduation, she worked for Children's Hospital for approximately two years. Francis and her husband later moved to Norman where he attended OU.

"We moved to Norman and I went to work for Primrose Nursing



(ABOVE) Francis credits her faith for leading her into her nursing career which continues today at age 79. (COVER INSET) Joella Francis, RN, participates in nursing graduation ceremony in 1966 at the University of Oklahoma.

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Home. I worked there for about three years. After having our first child, I returned to the workforce for the Norman Public School as a practical nursing instructor. I was only there about a year, and then we moved to Duncan, and that's where I did most of my nursing at the Medical Center Hospital in Duncan, which is what it was called then," she said.

Francis said she wore several hats working at Duncan.

"I did all kinds of things there," she said. "I've been an educator, Director of Nursing. I was a house supervisor. I helped set up their first coronary care unit, because they were just being developed at that time. I think it was the early seventies. A couple of other nurses and I went to coronary care school for two weeks and then set up the system for the hospital. During that time, I had two more children. I continued to work full-time, but because of family obligations, I worked nights in ICU, ER and supervisor for several years. I also started to do some part-time teaching at Red River Technology Center as a practical nursing instructor."

Francis said they were in the

homebuilding business in Duncan, and when the oil bust came in 1985, they moved to Texas.

"I worked in an ICU in San Marcos during that time," she said. "We then moved to McAlester due to my husband's job. I went to work at McAlester Hospital in ICU and then I worked for Kiamichi Technology Center as a practical nursing instructor."

Due to better job opportunities, they decided to move back to Duncan where Francis became the Coordinator for the Practical Nursing program at Red River Technology Center.

"Because of our children being college age, we moved to Stillwater and I then began working at Meridian Technology Center as a practical nursing instructor," she said. "We moved to Connecticut for my husband's job and I went to work for a large nursing home facility as a nursing educator."

Francis said during that time, her parents who lived in Braman needed care as her dad was very sick.

"On my way home to Ponca City, my daughter called me and

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Oklahoma's Nursing Times December 11, 2023 Page 3



Joella Francis, RN has been in the nursing field for over 50 years, and still works part-time at age 79.

# FRANCIS Continued from Page 2

said there was a Practical Nursing Coordinator job at the Ponca City Pioneer Technology Center," she said. "I worked there for about 10 years as the Practical Nursing Coordinator and retired in 2010."

Francis didn't stay retired long. "I stayed off for about three years, and then (Pioneer Technology Center) called me," she said. "Because I have nursing home experience and was an RN, they needed someone to check off nurse aides testing skills. They have to do a skills checkoff, and they need somebody to come and do their skills checkoff testing. I'm still working, but it's like every other month. Sometimes I work three days, sometimes it's two days. It depends on how big their nurse aide class is."

Francis said one of her joys from nursing has been taking care of patients.

"I've always loved nursing. I love taking care of people. I love being with students and patients together," she said. "My favorite thing besides just being a plain old nurse, was to be with the students and with their patients and helping them learn, and see students grow in their knowledge and see students pass their boards. It is a joy to see young ladies or gentlemen, who thought they couldn't do anything in this world become very good Practical Nurses."

Francis said she enjoys being a mentor to nursing students.

"A lot of them go on and get their RN, so I feel like I've been an instrument in helping them to realize that life is out there for them, and they can do things," she said. "I'm very proud of my students that I had because a lot of them didn't think they could do anything when they came to our school."

Francis turns 80 in March, and has no plans to slow down anytime soon. She has just completed her CEU's required to renew her license in March.

"I don't ever consider myself an old lady, but I know I am," she said. "I don't ever see myself as that, because I stay very active in what I do. That's another reason I like to work. I help with art in the Christian school at our church. I stay very, very active. I have many hobbies, 13 grandchildren to love, I do not plan to slow down yet. I give all that credit to the Lord for giving me good health."



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# CAREERS IN NURSING: NURSING TOUCHES LIFE - LPN FEELS CALLING

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Not every family has the resources to care for loved ones at home. So, they need a comforting place like Bellevue Health & Rehabilitation Center in Oklahoma City. They need the kindness of nurses like Lakisha (Keke) White, LPN.

"You come in and smile and give your report and you take care of people — whatever they need," White said. "Some days can be stressful, but we make it. All of us do what we have to do when taking care of people."

She entered healthcare 15 years ago as a CNA/CMA with her heart set for nursing. White graduated from LPN school at Metro Technology Center, located in Oklahoma City and has been with Bellevue Health & Rehab Center for two years. Bellevue Health & Rehabilitation Center is a 150-bed facility that is often at capacity. Seven charge nurses work on day shift, evening shift, and night shift. That doesn't include the supporting staff.

"The long-term coworkers that I have and the unit manager — we're a family — they have my back and I have their back. It's a great work dynamic working here in long-term care," White said. "They're very understanding because I'm taking care of my mom, too. Most places don't get that in the corporate world, but this is family owned."

She felt a calling from God to become a nurse. She began listening to the stories of young and older adult patients with diverse backgrounds.

"It helped me grow, learning their stories and their wisdom," White said. "It's just answering the call. When God calls you, when you answer it, it's going to be challenging but it's beautiful."

White said that being a nurse has helped her to grow more patience and understanding. She views life with possibilities instead of being boxed in with tunnel vision. Nursing helps you not to be self-centered, she said. And many times, a nursing career will touch your life, she added.

"I had a patient when I was a CNA. He was a male patient — very young at 46 or so — he was a farmer," White said. "Unfortunately, a

Not every family has the tractor had fell on him and paralyzed ources to care for loved ones at him from waist down. He always ne. So, they need a comforting encouraged me."

White would buy him ice cream after her CMA classes, and they would sit and talk about life. He has since passed away. But White cherishes the bonding moments they had when nobody ever came to visit him

"That was just our time together and I'll never forget that," she said. "He was so encouraging, and he told me stories and things that he wished he could have done, just how his life was taken away just like that."

She has witnessed many nurses and nurse aides at Bellevue Health & Rehab Center take time to talk and listen to their residents even when the staff is busy. It's a transition time for new residents leaving their homes to live with fewer personal items and meet new people. Nurses will introduce themselves upon the arrival of a new patient to make a good first impression. They explain menu items to choose from, call lights, and showers. Residents are introduced to how the nurses and nurse aides can help them in daily life.

White said it's important to be present in their lives and give that extra time to learn their likes and dislikes.

"Listening to them is very important because they are going through a grieving process. Sometimes, that's all you can do. Just listen. They need to let it out because they're scared," White explained. "So, you just listen to them, comfort them, and just love them."

She remembers her motto whenever a patient lives with memory loss.

"As long as they're safe you play along because you don't want to take that moment away from them," White explained. "Whatever's going on in their mind, you don't want to take that from them as long as they don't pose any harm to themselves or other residents. They need you to listen."

Nurses will succeed if they're compassionate, empathetic, and realistic, she said. She recalls crying all the time during her first year when



A nursing career can deepen one's understanding of life, says long-term care nurse Lakisha (Keke) White, an LPN at Bellevue Health & Rehabilitation Center.

she was a hospice nurse.

"Even here I cry because they're my family, they become part of me. You grieve and it's okay to grieve."

White said nursing has taught her that, "The time that you have, you can't get back. So, use it well."

She also makes the most of her life by spending time with her family.

She lives with her mom and dad, sister, niece, and nephew. When she's alone, White finds comfort and strength by praying to God and reading her Bible.

For more information about Bellevue Health & Rehabilitation Center visit https://bellevueokc.com/.

# MRF scientists help identify cause of brain disorder

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientists — and a lot of tiny fish — were instrumental in a worldwide effort to pinpoint the cause of a rare, severe neurodevelopmental disorder that shares some characteristics with Parkinson's disease. Their work could lead to greater insights into Parkinson's.

Following seven years of research, an international team determined that a specific genetic mutation was responsible for causing the disorder in 45 people, representing 28 families on several continents, including 11 people from six families in the U.S.

The unnamed disease begins early in life and progresses to significant motor and cognitive deterioration as the person reaches adulthood.

OMRF scientist Gaurav Varshney, Ph.D., and his team led by postdoctoral researcher Sheng-Jia Lin, Ph.D., helped determine the cause by matching patient symptoms with those of a paperclip-sized zebrafish model

They created the model at OMRF using gene-editing technology called CRISPR.

Varshney's lab studies human disease through zebrafish. More than 80% of human genes associated with disease have a counterpart gene in the species.

Varshney's collaborator in London, Reza Maroofian, Ph.D., identified three members from the same family who shared a mutation on the gene ACBD6 and exhibited similar neurological symptoms. In 2020, as the search grew to identify other cases, the research team asked Varshney to test the effects of that mutation in a zebrafish model.

The ACBD6 gene is crucial in certain cellular and proteinmodification processes. Research has shown that disruptions of these processes can cause degenerative brain diseases.

Varshney and Lin's zebrafish model confirmed suspicions about the cause of the human condition. During three years of study, the team found the affected zebrafish exhibited the same clinical symptoms as their human counterparts.

The team's findings were published in the journal Brain.

"Zebrafish are the perfect model to study genetic diseases Left to right: Oklahoma Medical Research because the larvae are transparent and grow externally," OMRF's Foundation scientists Sheng-Jia Lin, Ph.D., and Lin said. "This allows us to easily monitor their brain development and behavior."

Next, the international team will try to identify a way to block that genetic variant to prevent or treat the condition. Further studies may shed light on genetic causes and pathways leading to this and other neurodevelopmental

'With the knowledge gained by generating this zebrafish model, we sharing the same genetic variant. hope to better understand how this genetic mutation relates to disease



Gaurav Varshney, Ph.D.

progression," Varshney said. "While this research involved a rare disorder, we may discover that our findings have applicability to the much more common and related disease of Parkinson's."

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**ANSWERS ON PAGE 12** 



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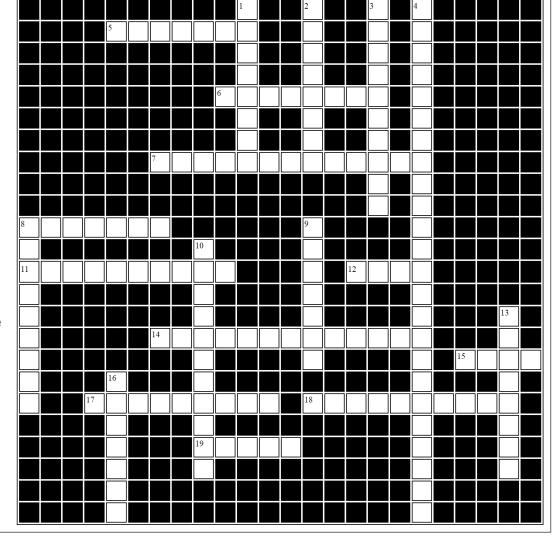


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Across
5. another common effect of caffeine
6. most common mood-altering drug
7. vivarin is a
8. common effect of caffeine
11. caffeine you
12. 7-up contains mg of caffeine(very low amount)
14. caffeine can icrease what?(2 words)
15. it is bad to consuming caffeine
17. caffeine can cause
18. caffeine addiction is sometimes caused to escape
caffeine symtoms
19. a non-cafeinated way to get energy
Down
a caffeine withdrawal symptom
2. a way to cut back on caffeine is to slowly the
amount you consume
3. another common effect of caffeine
4. another common effect of caffeine(two words)
8. caffeine is
9. caffeine intake can cause what is called the ""
10. caffeine can cause
13. caffeine can give sleep
16 caffeine can cause loss of and notassium

By Chris Beltzner



## OKNT SPECIAL - IT'S ME

by Dean Prentice, DHA, MA, BSN, RN, NE-BC

There seems to be an epidemic going around and I have been exposed to more and more in the past few months. You see it at the national level, state level, local area, and probably in your organization. This epidemic, if left untreated, could destroy an organization, ruin a reputation, and impact the care and operations of your unit. What is this epidemic?

The inability to identify when you did something wrong, or perceived wrong, and then not apologizing.

Doesn't this sound like a skill set most

should have learned in kindergarten or early school years? Yet turn on the news or look at leaders in your organization and you can see where getting the upper hand and "looking strong" drives many people's behaviors. And those people cannot identify their lack of awareness of the situation. To them, it is someone else's problem.

Look at the relations in your work area, or think about a conflict you have had with a coworker, subordinate, or boss. And I'm sure you have experienced the inability of someone to do the simple act of making an apology after a mistake. Or maybe, it was you?

We live in a world driven by success and that abhors failure. Add to that the culture which is so pervasive where my feelings drive my behavior. Where feeling I have been disrespected is more important than looking for a way to resolve the conflict and working professionally with another. The basic concept that we all make mistakes, yet we have to work together seems to be more than most can take. So, what happens if you become infected by this epidemic?

You lose. The organization loses. And more importantly, your patients and your co-workers lose. You can't control what someone else does. We all know someone who will "never be wrong." Let their inability to build a professional and collegial relationship determine your behavior in any situation. Is that hard? Absolutely. However, is it the right thing to do? Yes. You need to remember at the end of the day that you only control yourself.

When you have created a conflict, you need to apologize. Whether the conflict was unintentional or not. Your professional responsibility would be to help rectify and continue a relationship you need in your work environment. I watched this beautifully happen a few weeks ago when I observed a seasoned coworker apologize for a situation I truly believe she did not create. Brilliantly, she apologized for an offense she never intended and helped build a more collaborative relationship with the other individual.

Where are you on the self-awareness journey to say, it's me? Have you been in a situation where you needed to apologize and didn't? It's not too late. Take the role of leader and accomplish the apology. We need to guard ourselves from becoming infected with the epidemic surrounding us. We have a sustainable treatment plan which is to be aware of the situation and to model grace, professionalism, and teamwork. Trust me, it will build your leadership for today, and set your reputation as a standout leader.

As appeared in The Oklahoma Nurse November 2023









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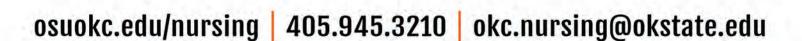
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OSU-OKC NURSING

# Responding to First Responders

Story by Kaylie Wehr, Photo by: Adam Luther

For most people, work-related stressors may be long hours, increased workload or poor management, but for first responders, often it is situations of life and death.

"The rates of suicide for firefighters, for police officers and other first responders are incredibly high," said Dr. Lindsey Greco, associate professor of management in the Spears School of Business at Oklahoma State University.

"It's a very stressful and hard job to be a first responder and for firefighters, in particular, it's a dangerous job. However, more firefighters and police officers die by suicide than in the line of duty and rates of depression and PTSD can be as much as five times higher than that of the general public."

Taking a closer look, one might be surprised to learn that only 20-25% of a modern firefighter's job consists of putting out fires. Most of their time is spent responding to a wide

variety of other situations ranging from car accidents, drownings and other trauma situations to medical issues, such as heart attacks or falls.

With the nature of the job changing, today's firefighters are exposed to more horrendous situations than ever before, a fact that many may not be aware of when signing up. In addition to repeated exposure to trauma, broken sleep and responding to many false alarms compounds into high levels of stress.

Over the last five to 10 years, organizations have realized the need to focus more on the mental health and well-being of their firefighters, but despite this increased awareness, suicide rates among first responders remain high. Greco and her team — Drs. David Huntsman, senior researcher and owner of Huntsman Consulting LLC, and Xiangyu (Dale) Li, assistant professor of fire and emergency management in the College of Engineering, Architecture



Dr. Lindsey Greco, associate professor of management in the Spears School of Business at Oklahoma State University. Photo by: Adam Luther

and Technology at OSU — set out to learn why.

"Existing research points to the severe stressors that first responders experience and the unhealthy/negative coping strategies they commonly use as primary contributing factors," Greco said. "In addition, first-response organizations do not always play a positive role in development of effective coping strategies.

"The culture within these organizations can compound the stress experienced by first responders because of cultural stigmas related to expressing emotions, such as being afraid to appear weak. In short, the skills that make first responders good at their jobs, such as strength, decisiveness and emotional control, can also keep them from coping with stress and seeking help."

In early 2020, Greco and her team initiated the research program "Coping with Stressors: Understanding Negative Emotions, Harmful Strategies and the Role of Fire Service Culture." The team began collecting data by surveying individuals from several fire departments. Word soon spread and more departments became interested in participating.

In 2023, the team was awarded a \$511,794 grant by the National Science Foundation to continue and expand the research.

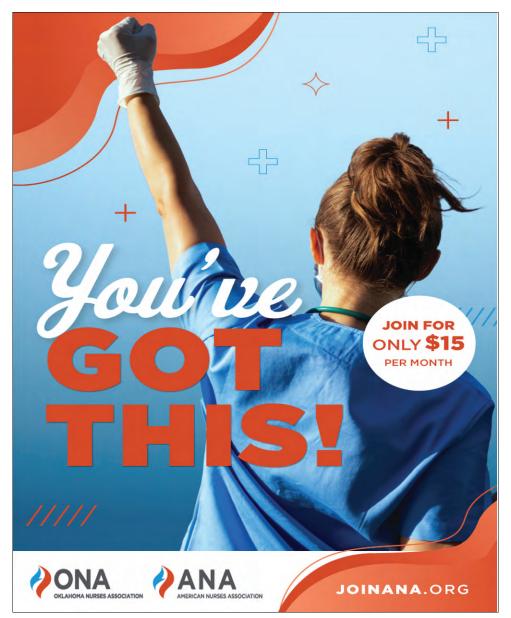
"The funding will be used for additional data collection, graduate assistant support, and other travel and research-related expenses related to gathering the information necessary to answer the questions posed by the research program," Greco said.

This research's goal is to provide insight into why first responders have a significantly increased risk of PTSD and suicide and, ultimately, effect change that will aid in lowering these rates.

"We are already seeing the impact of this research — the findings from our survey have led to significant organizational changes in some of the departments," Greco said.

Organizational changes implemented because of this study's findings include budget justifications for a mental health coordinator as well as contract enhancements for behavioral health services at a public safety occupational health clinic, changes to operations that affect sleep and emergency alarms for firefighters and even the addition of therapy dogs.

"More precisely diagnosing the problem lays the groundwork for effective organizational interventions that can mitigate stressors, promote healthy coping and ultimately increase the general well-being of first responders," Greco said.





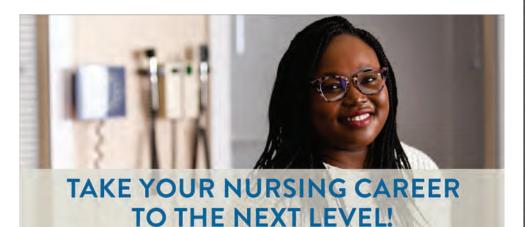
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# Oklahoma Hospital Association Presents Top Award to Jim Gebhart

Healthcare professionals from throughout the state attended the Oklahoma Hospital Association's (OHA's) 104th annual convention, Connect 23, Nov. 29-Dec. 1. In addition to the educational sessions and an exhibit hall, other convention highlights included the presentation of several awards to Oklahoma's outstanding healthcare leaders.

Jim Gebhart, FACHE, community president of Mercy Oklahoma, received the OHA W. Cleveland Rodgers Distinguished Service Award, the OHA's top award. This award is presented each year to an individual in the hospital or health care industry who has made a substantial contribution of service to the OHA, the profession of health care management and community service.

Gebhart has been Mercy Oklahoma community president since early 2023. His responsibilities include oversight of Mercy hospitals and clinics in Oklahoma. He continues to serve as president of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City, a position he has held since 2009.

During his tenure, Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City has been recognized as an IBM Watson 100 Top Hospital and an Everest Award winner, a Leapfrog Top Hospital and received nearly a dozen Leapfrog A Safety grades. U.S. News and World Report has also recognized the metro hospital as a Best Maternity Hospital.

Gebhart played a key role during the pandemic in bringing Oklahoma City-area hospitals together for the purpose of strategizing approaches, developing consistent messaging, and communicating as one with the public. In addition, his efforts were instrumental in bringing Medicaid expansion to the ballot and to full passage.

He was a member of the OHA board from 2013-2015 and was elected again to the board in 2022 as Oklahoma City region chair. He has served on the OHA Council on Education and the OHA Council on Policy & Legislation. He recently completed service on the American Hospital Association's Region 5 Policy Board.

Gebhart also has been chairman of the board of the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and is currently a member of the board of directors for the Greater Oklahoma City United Way, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, State Chamber of Oklahoma, and Regional

> Transit Authority Board. Gebhart is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City (XXIX) and Leadership Oklahoma (XXVIII).

> Gebhart holds a master's degree from the University of Dallas Graduate School of Management in healthcare administration. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.







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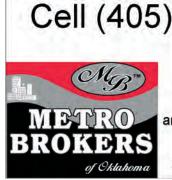
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Jim Gebhart, center, Mercy Oklahoma community president, receives the Oklahoma Hospital Association W. Cleveland Rodgers Distinguished Service Award from Tammy Powell (right), OHA board chair, president of SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Oklahoma City, and Rich Rasmussen (left), OHA president & CEO.





# UCO to Graduate More than 900 Students at Fall Commencement Ceremonies, Dec. 15-16

The University of Central Oklahoma will celebrate the achievements of approximately 921 graduates during the Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremonies Dec. 15-16, in Central's Hamilton Field House.

UCO President Todd G. Lamb will offer comments at each of the university's four ceremonies.

Commencement ceremonies are scheduled as follows:

1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15: College of Education and Professional Studies; 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15: Jackson College of Graduate Studies;

10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 16: College of Business and College of Mathematics and Science; and, 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16: College of Liberal Arts and College of Fine Arts and Design.

Graduates and guests attending the ceremonies are asked to arrive early, as the field house traditionally fills to capacity. All guests ages 4 and up are required to have a ticket for entry.

Limited parking to the west of the field house will be reserved for those with disabilities. All campus parking spaces, except those in the reserved lot to the west of the field house, will be open during the commencement events for those attending the ceremonies.

The ceremonies may be viewed online at www.uco.edu, with livestreaming beginning approximately 15 minutes before each ceremony.

Additionally, Central will livestream each commencement ceremony on UCO's Facebook page. The Facebook livestream will capture the traditional graduate walk from Old North to Hamilton Field House, weather permitting.

For more information about Central's graduation, visit www.uco.edu/ commencement.



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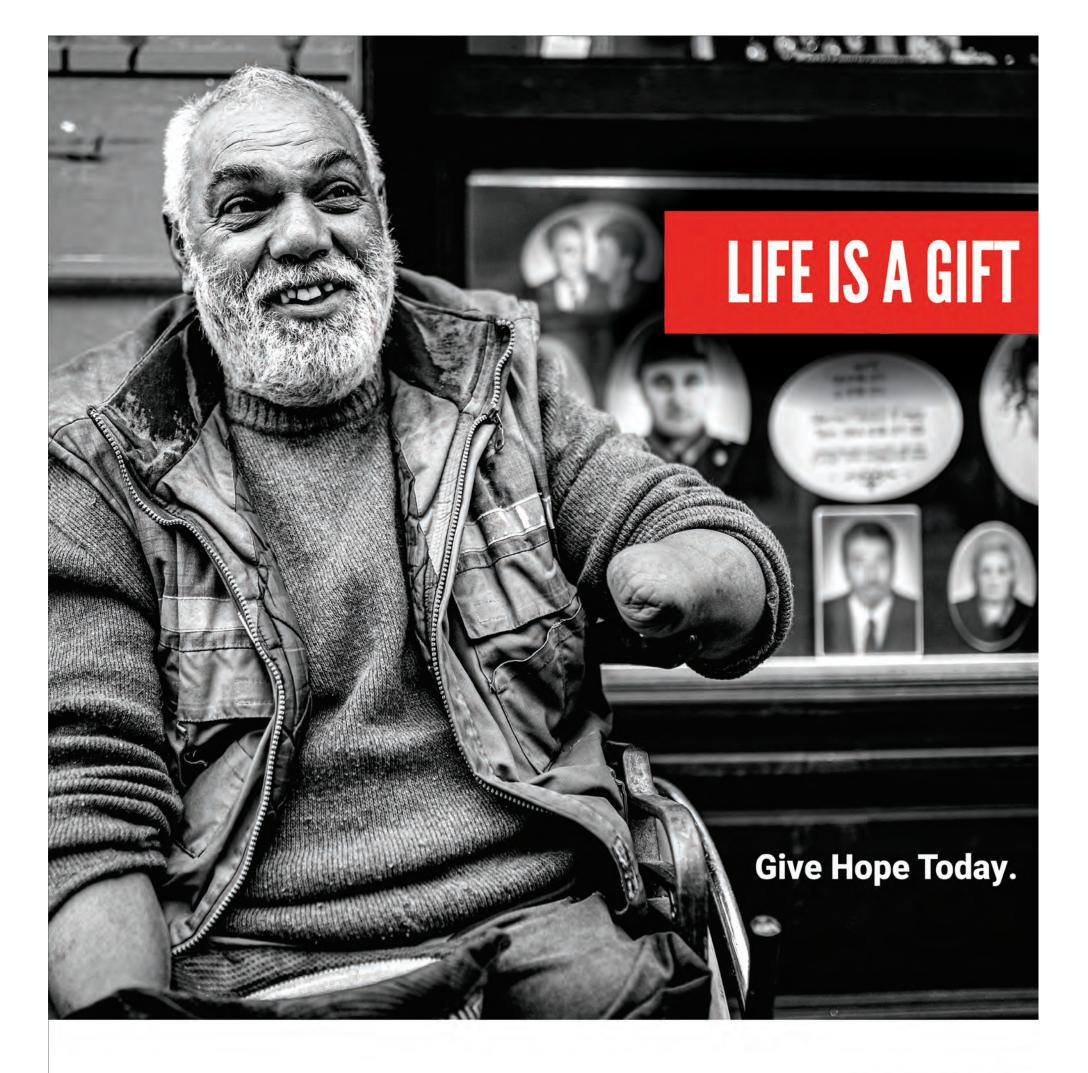
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# Nursing Home Advocates Endorse New Federal Legislation Blocking Biden Staffing Mandate

Care Providers Oklahoma today announced their support of the "Protecting Rural Seniors' Access to Care Act," a federal bill that would block implementation of a new staffing mandate proposed by the Biden Administration.

The bill, cosponsored by U.S. Sen. James Lankford (R-Oklahoma), states: "The Secretary of Health and Human Services may not implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect to the proposed entitled 'Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting' published by the Department of Health and Human Services on September 6, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 61352-61429), and may not promulgate any substantially similar rule." Similar language has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives as part of the Health and Human Services budget bill.

The rule proposed by the Biden Administration would require specific nursing home staff to spend a minimum number of hours with each resident - 2.45 nurse aide hours per resident per day (HPRD) and 0.55 registered nurse (RN) HPRD - as well as have a 24-hour registered nurse (RN) on site.

Nursing home professionals have argued that the rule ignores the staffing crisis occurring in Oklahoma and across the nation and imposes impossible to meet goals and crippling financial penalties on a field that is already struggling to recruit and adequately compensate qualified staff.

An analysis of the Biden administration mandate by professional services firm CLA CliftonLarsenAllen, LLP (CLA) drew the following conclusions:

- If implemented, the proposed mandate would require Oklahoma nursing homes to hire an estimated 1,253 additional full-time employees, including 538 nurse aides and 715
- The proposed mandate would cost Oklahoma nursing homes approximately \$76 million per

- Over 99 percent of nursing homes are currently not meeting at least one of the three proposed staffing requirements: the 2.45 nurse aide HPRD, the 0.55 RN HPRD, and the 24/7 RN.
- If nursing homes are unable to increase their workforce to meet these new requirements, more than 5800 nursing home residents could be impacted by census reductions.

Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt has already signed a letter, along with 14 other governors opposing the mandate.

Oklahoma Care Providers President and CEO Steven Buck thanked Oklahoma's elected officials for opposing the mandate, which he said would be incredibly damaging to senior care in Oklahoma.

"As I have said for months, this mandate makes the federal government seem completely oblivious to the dual threats impacting seniors receiving care in nursing homes: a severe staff shortage coupled with chronic underfunding," said Buck. Biden administration is literally demanding facilities hire staffers who do not exist with money we do not have. That is a recipe for disaster. My thanks go out to Sen. Lankford, Gov. Stitt and others who have worked to block a policy that will negatively impact senior care in Oklahoma and elsewhere."

Buck went on to say the mandate would ultimately hurt vulnerable seniors the most.

"We can't hire the number of staffers this mandate is proposing because they don't exist," said Buck. "What facilities can do and will do to avoid new penalties is to reduce the number of seniors they are caring for by ceasing to admit new residents. That means vulnerable seniors will be left without the care they need. That is a terrible outcome for these seniors, and it is why we continue to oppose this unworkable, unwise

- Read the full CLA analysis and the impact of the proposed mandate on each state HERE.
- Download a PDF of the Oklahoma-specific analysis HERE.

To prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services

ing for nursing facilities, and to establish an advisory

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

long-

assisted

2 lives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

panel on the nursing home workforce.

from finalizing a proposed rule regarding minimum staff

• Download the text of the Protecting Rural Seniors' Access to Care Act HERE.

Previously Oklahoma Association of Health Care Providers (OAHCP), Care Providers Oklahoma represents the interests of more than 18,000 residents and 5 iors' Access to Care Act'. 19,000 professionals work in Oklahoma's term care facilities,

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Rural Sen-SEC, 2. FINDINGS. including nursing homes, living homes and intermediate facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Care Providers Oklahoma's mission is to

assist its members in providing the highest quality care to the seniors, individuals with disabilities and vulnerable Oklahomans who live in

our facilities. We advocate for the enhancement of that care so that Oklahoma long-term care residents may live in the comfort and dignity they deserve. Learn more here.

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