



CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES FOR NURSING HOME REFORM

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Dear friend,

Join us in amplifying the voices of long term care consumers.

During the past year, residents of long-term care facilities and their family members faced the unimaginable. COVID-19 took the lives of over 13,000 nursing home and assisted living facility residents and staff in California and turned bad facilities into some of the most dangerous places in the state. Unable to visit residents, family members watched their loved ones deteriorate from isolation, lack of adequate staff and lack of adequate care.

Throughout this terrible year, CANHR remained open and worked tirelessly to assist the thousands of residents, family members, social workers, ombudsmen, law enforcement and state legislators who called our hotline or emailed their concerns. In addition, CANHR also:

- Held numerous Community Town Halls via Zoom for consumers and advocates on issues such as facility lockdowns, family visitation, voting access, and residents rights during the pandemic.
- Created a special website for use during the COVID emergency at [CANHR's COVID-19 website](#). It contains CANHR alerts and recommendations, information on visitation rights, state and federal directives, links to outbreak data such as deaths and infections, media stories, webinar recordings and much more.
- Launched a [Visitation Saves Lives](#) campaign resulting in the relaxing of some visitation restrictions so that essential caregivers could, at the very least, visit their loved ones outdoors. We continue to pressure the Department of Public Health to open up nursing homes to visitors.
- [Testified before the State Legislature](#) about the COVID-19 crisis in nursing homes and how to adjust state policy to prevent more sickness and death; and helped draft and support many of the bills in the [2021 state PROTECT Plan](#) to address longstanding systemic nursing home problems.

Those who suffered and died so tragically are not numbers or statistics. They are our beloved mothers and fathers, our siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and neighbors. We at CANHR pledge to remember and honor all of them as we renew our fight to establish a just and humane long-term care system in California.

Enclosed are a few stories of the advocacy CANHR has engaged in during the past year. These stories - multiplied many times over - illustrate the difficulties faced by long-term care residents over this past year.

Join our struggle. **Please donate generously.** With your donation, we can help more people like Evelyn, Bill, Martin and Ken, and continue our advocacy for all long-term care residents.

Sincerely,

Executive Director, CANHR