

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From the Desk of Chaplain Paul Sparrow 193

### AZ ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE FAILED TO DEFEND, PROTECT, PRESERVE, UPHOLD, OR ENFORCE LONG-TERM CARE RIGHTS

Arizona's elected officials have failed to defend, protect, preserve, uphold, strengthen, or enforce the rights of residents in Arizona's long-term care system.

This is a direct violation of the Oath of Office each official swore — to defend, protect, uphold, and enforce the rights of the people. Their refusal to act constitutes grounds for their immediate removal from public office.

It is now the responsibility of every American citizen who has ever recited the Pledge of Allegiance to honor that pledge. Contact your elected officials and **DEMAND** that they honor their Oath of Office by publicly insisting that all long-term care laws, rights, and regulations — state and federal — be fully enforced in all Arizona healthcare facilities.

If they will not enforce the law, they must **resign or be removed** from office.

**WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAVE HAD ENOUGH.**

### American Long-Term Care Patient Rights

#### 1. Constitutional Rights

- **9th Amendment** – Protects fundamental rights including dignity, humane treatment, and freedom from neglect.
- **14th Amendment** – Guarantees due process and equal protection; residents must receive fair and humane treatment.
- **8th Amendment** – Prohibits cruel, degrading, or neglectful treatment.
- **1st Amendment** – Preserves freedom of speech, religion, and communication.

- **4th Amendment** – Protects patient privacy, rooms, and medical information.

## 2. Federal Patient Protection Laws

### **Nursing Home Reform Act (OBRA 1987):**

- Freedom from abuse, neglect, and restraints
- Timely assistance with bathing, toileting, hygiene, meals, and medical needs
- Dignity, respect, and informed decisions
- Participation in care planning
- Right to complain without retaliation

### **Elder Justice Act (2010):**

Federal protections against abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

### **Patient Self-Determination Act (1990):**

Right to make advance directives and participate in healthcare decisions.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (1990):**

No discrimination; requires reasonable accommodations.

### **Older Americans Act:**

Supports state Ombudsman programs protecting residents' rights.

### **HIPAA (1996):**

Protects medical privacy and confidentiality.

### **Civil Rights Act (1964):**

No discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

## 3. State-Level Rights (vary by state)

Most states include:

- Right to dignity and privacy
- Right to participate in activities
- Right to receive visitors
- Right to personal possessions

- Right to refuse treatment
- Right to prompt response to care needs

#### 4. Human Rights & International Principles

##### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):**

Dignity, safety, humane treatment, freedom from torture, and adequate medical care.

##### **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006):**

Respect, independence, and full participation in society.

#### 5. Practical Rights in Long-Term Care

- Timely hygiene, meals, and medical care — long delays = neglect.
- Clean, safe, sanitary environment.
- Protection from financial exploitation.
- Social interaction and family communication.
- Right to file grievances without retaliation.

#### Summary

Long-term care residents are protected by Constitutional rights, federal laws, and human-rights principles.

Being left in soiled clothing, denied timely care, or silenced when raising concerns is not only neglect — **it is a violation of law and human dignity.**