



AMERICAN

NURSE

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
 ANA
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

June 20, 2024

By: Patricia Ford-Roegner, RN, MSW, FAAN

“Those who respect the elderly pave their own road toward success.” – African proverb

As a long-time RN and active leader within the profession, I’ve always been uncomfortable that personal care facilities are generically referred to as “nursing homes.” To me, this creates a public expectation that licensed RNs would comprise most of the staff in these facilities.

Sadly, for both federal regulatory and societal issues, this isn’t the case. No doubt, the vast majority of those providing 24/7 care for many of our most frail Americans—particularly older people—are conscientious, caring people. However, they haven’t received the same comprehensive education as a nurse. They’re not prepared to detect and address conditions that could have life-or-death consequences.