

# NCCNHR: The Faces of Neglect

## Nursing Home Abuse and the Federal Medical Malpractice Bill:

### *By the Numbers*

#### The Scope of Abuse and Neglect

**2.5 million** – Number of Americans seniors and disabled adults who live in nursing homes and long-term care and assisted living facilities.

**300,000** – Number of elderly and disabled residents who live in chronically deficient nursing homes where they are “at risk of harm due to woefully deficient care,” according to GAO.

**26.2%** -- Percent of nursing homes nationwide cited for violations related to quality of care by regulatory agencies in 2004.

**90%** -- Percent of nursing homes that do not meet recommended standards for nursing staffing levels.

**20,000** – Number of complaints investigated by long-term care ombudsmen in 2004 for abuse, gross neglect and exploitation.

#### Profit Motives and Care in the Nursing Home Industry

**47%** -- Increased number of deficiencies in quality of care reported in for-profit nursing homes compared to non-profit nursing homes, according to the American Journal of Public Health.

**20-30%** -- Profit margins of many for-profit nursing homes, according to U.S. News and World Report.

#### The Federal Malpractice Bill

**\$250,000** – Maximum compensation for a resident who is permanently disabled, paralyzed, or brain damaged because of a nursing home’s abuse or neglect.

**\$250,000** -- Maximum compensation for the family of a resident killed because a nursing home failed to treat a pressure sore that grew so large it became infected, required amputation of a limb and eventually killed the resident.

**\$250,000** – Maximum compensation for the family of a resident who is raped and killed by a nursing home attendant the nursing home corporation hired despite a known criminal record of sexual assault.

**0** – Number of lines in the federal malpractice bill relating to improving care for nursing home residents or decreasing widespread abuse and neglect in long-term care facilities.

**0%** -- Decrease in insurance premiums the insurance industry has promised if Congress limits the rights of patients injured through no fault of their own to hold negligent nursing home corporations accountable.