



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 3, 2021

The Honorable Karen Fann
President of the Senate
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1282 (nursing care administrators; continuation)

Dear President Fann:

Today I vetoed S.B. 1282.

Both the legislature and I agree that the protection of our seniors and vulnerable adults living in long term care facilities is of the utmost importance. With that in mind, Senator Pace had introduced a bill to continue the Board of Examiners of Nursing Care Institution Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers to make sure that proper oversight of these institutions that care for our most vulnerable was in place.

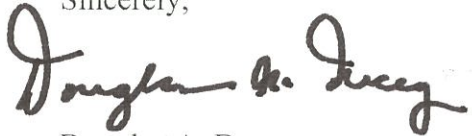
Sadly, after this bill was nearly through the legislature, there was a disturbing and heartbreaking investigation by the Arizona Republic of Arizona's into this Board that showed the Board is failing in its duty. The report detailed how the Board provided a license to an individual convicted of a felony for fraud. Additionally, the board did not investigate and adjudicate complaints in a timely manner and failed to provide accurate information to the public. The Board has also failed to ensure that all applicants meet background check criteria.

With this new information, we need something more than a continuation. My office has spoken to the sponsor and other key members of the legislature on a path to not just continue the status quo but to improve the oversight of administrators of long term care facilities.

I look forward to working with the Legislature to transfer all licensing and regulation of nursing care institution administrators and assisted living facility managers to the Arizona Department of Health Services.

It's time for accountability and new leadership to supervise these facilities. Our seniors -- these are our grandmothers and grandfathers -- deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a prominent flourish at the end.

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Rusty Bowers
The Honorable Tyler Pace
The Honorable Katie Hobbs