

January 31, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

Pioneer Lodge nursing home is a long-term care facility located in Coldwater, KS. Our facility was built in the 60's and opened for business in 1964.

When Pioneer Lodge first opened, they were a 52-bed facility and over the years beds have been decreased and services changed to stay competitive and offer the types of care that the community needs.

This past year we have changed our licensed long term care beds to 25, this the lowest bed count that we have had in the history of Pioneer Lodge. And we decided to have zero residential bed/units.

Pioneer Lodge would appreciate some help with the ever-rising cost of agency workers. It is evident that we must have some assistance and put a cap on the amount of money that these agencies can charge.

Most recently we have received notifications that the agencies are wanting to be paid \$50 per hour for a Certified Nurse Aide. Prices range from \$70 - \$120 per hour for licensed personnel. We currently have a couple contracts that we have agreed to pay \$60- \$65 per hour for LPN.

At the present time Pioneer Lodge is utilizing services for both nurse aides and licensed personnel. And at the rate that the agencies are charging it will not take long to deplete our savings.

Once, the savings is depleted we will not have a choice but to consider closing our facility. Having to close would be devastating to the community for both the residents and the employees.

Finding other facilities for the 23 residents that currently reside at Pioneer Lodge will not be an easy task. I know other long term care facilities that are not accepting new admits because of staffing issues.

Please consider assisting us nursing homes with HB2524.

Sincerely



Diana Thompson
Administrator