Subject: Request for Issuance of a Current QSO on Residents' Right to Vote and Facility Responsibilities

To: Dora Hughes and Evan Shulman

I hope this message finds you well.

The undersigned organizations/individuals request that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) update and re-issue QSO-21-02-NH (Oct. 5, 2020) regarding compliance with Residents’ Rights Requirements related to Nursing Home Residents’ Right to Vote

Given the importance of voting as a cornerstone of our democracy, it is crucial that residents in long-term care facilities are supported in their right to participate in elections. Clear guidance from CMS would be instrumental in ensuring that all facilities are aware of their responsibilities and are taking the necessary steps to facilitate their residents' ability to vote. Reissuing this guidance is necessary for guaranteeing clarity that the described residents’ rights and nursing homes’ responsibilities exist at all times, not just during a Public Health Emergency.

A current QSO could provide essential information on:

1. The legal rights of residents regarding voting.
2. The **importance of getting residents registered to vote** in a timely manner.
3. Best practices for facilitating voting, including assistance with registration, obtaining absentee ballots, and transportation to polling locations if needed.
4. Procedures to ensure that residents are informed of their voting rights and the assistance available to them.
5. Protocols for safeguarding the integrity of the voting process within the facility.

Issuing such guidance will help to ensure that all facilities are aligned in their efforts to support residents in exercising their right to vote, thereby upholding their self-determination and dignity.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to your response and am available to discuss this further if needed.

Best regards,

[Your Name]
[Your Title/Organization]
[Your Contact Information]