

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

## Editorial: A good fight

### *Lawmakers should ignore nursing-home efforts to reverse elder-care reform*

And so it begins: With a television ad that, for all intents and purposes, shows Gov. John Kasich pulling the plug on Grandma, Ohio's nursing-home industry is taking its campaign for taxpayer cash directly to the public and using reprehensible means to do it.

Kasich is right to be incensed at this low blow, and his vow to fight back is justified.

The governor's budget proposed, and the Ohio House has ratified, cuts of \$427 million from nursing homes. This is a necessary move to shift the balance of funding for elder care toward the less-expensive in-home care that many senior citizens prefer. It is one of the most dramatic actions ever taken against the politically powerful nursing-home lobby that has co-opted Ohio lawmakers for decades with lavish campaign contributions.

It is this uncharacteristic resistance to nursing-home lobbying efforts that has prompted the TV ads by the Ohio Health Care Association. As the Ohio Senate takes up the budget bill, lawmakers also are receiving phone calls from frightened nursing-home patients who've been told their care is at risk.

But as Greg Moody, director of the governor's Office of Health Transformation, noted in a recent *Dispatch* story, there is and will be no shortage of nursing homes for those who need them. Currently, there is a 15 percent vacancy rate among nursing homes and 98 percent of Medicaid recipients live within 10 miles of a nursing home, he said.

**Read The Rest Of The Article Here:** <http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2011/05/11/a-good-fight.html?sid=101>

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