

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3222**

September 22, 2025

Dr. Mehmet Oz  
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Oz:

At the end of August, the New York Attorney General announced that the state of New York had secured a \$12 million settlement, including major reforms to address resident neglect and financial fraud at the Van Duyn Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Syracuse, New York.<sup>1</sup> I write to express my continued concerns over patient care and safety at Van Duyn, and to request an update from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on federal efforts to ensure residents at this facility receive the quality care they deserve.

The Van Duyn Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, which has been on the CMS Special Focus Facility (SFF) list for more than two years, continues to struggle with systemic issues and serious deficiencies that pose a risk to residents' health and safety. The CMS SFF list represents a "list of nursing homes that have a history of serious quality issues and are included in a special program to stimulate improvements in their quality of life." According to a July 2025 CMS report, Van Duyn has been on this list for 28 months.<sup>1</sup>

While I am grateful for the dedicated staff who work hard to provide quality care for their patients despite a documented history of insufficient staffing and diversion of taxpayer dollars intended for resident care,<sup>2</sup> the status quo at this facility remains unacceptable. Throughout my tenure both as a New York State Senator and now as a U.S. Representative, I have heard concerns over safety and quality of care at Van Duyn from many constituents, as well as disturbing stories from their or their loved ones' experiences at the facility. These accounts are in addition to investigations and reporting conducted by local media over the past several years, highlighting inadequate care and even neglect that patients have suffered at Van Duyn.<sup>3</sup> We cannot allow our seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable patients to continue to receive substandard care.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/sff-posting-candidate-list-july-2025.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.syracuse.com/health/2025/08/van-duyn-owners-will-pay-millions-to-settle-patient-neglect-financial-fraud-charges.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.syracuse.com/health/2025/01/van-duyns-shame-nursing-homes-out-of-town-owners-pocket-millions-while-residents-suffer.html>; <https://www.localsyr.com/news/local-news/its-like-a-prison-says-resident-at-van-duyn-center-for-rehabilitation-and-nursing/>

On behalf of the patients at this facility and their loved ones, I respectfully request an update on this facility's status as a SFF and urge CMS to take additional action to ensure all problems are corrected and quality of care improves significantly. Specifically, I request an update on CMS's actions to course-correct since Van Duyn was added to the SFF list over two years ago.

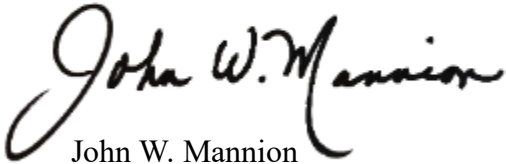
In order to ascertain the current status of the facility, its compliance history since becoming an SFF in addressing the serious deficiencies leading to substandard care, and its capacity to address systemic problems and ensure residents' health and safety, I request answers to the following questions:

1. According to this facility's Care Compare inspection summaries, this facility has been inspected only three times in the past four years, with just two inspections (once in July 2023, and most recently in April 2025) during the period when it was listed as an SFF. Why is this facility not receiving inspections every six months, as mandated for all SFF?
2. How has CMS coordinated with the State Ombudsman, the NY Department of Health, the NY Attorney General, the NY Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU), and other relevant agencies to investigate and remedy the situation at the facility?
3. What steps has the CMS taken to ensure that the New York State Department of Health is carrying out its full range of oversight responsibilities when it comes to this facility?
4. What enforcement actions have been taken by CMS to ensure that this facility takes the necessary steps to improve performance, maintain and enforce safety standards, and increase quality of care?
5. In addition to cutting Medicaid by nearly a trillion dollars, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* rescinds CMS's minimum staffing rule that would have ensured appropriate staffing levels in facilities like this one—the number one factor related to improving patient safety and quality in nursing homes. What is CMS doing to ensure sufficient staffing levels to eliminate neglect resulting from insufficient staff at the facility?
6. What tools does CMS have to take action to prohibit the owners of for profit nursing home facilities – like Van Duyn – from diverting funds instead of spending resources to improve resident care?
7. If CMS does not currently have sufficient resources to fulfill its oversight role, what support do they need from Congress to ensure proper oversight of facilities on the SFF?
8. What additional steps are necessary to ensure residents' health and safety at the Van Duyn facility?
9. The recent settlement action requires the independent monitoring of health care operations at the facility and the implementation of reforms to improve the quality of patient care and strengthen the facility workforce. How will CMS work together with enforcement and oversight agencies in New York to ensure Van Duyn's management complies with all terms of the settlement?

It is essential that we take strong action to protect the lives of our most vulnerable. I urge you to act expeditiously to ensure that Van Duyn addresses its serious quality and safety concerns so that it can meet the standard of care that our patients deserve. I look forward to working collaboratively to restore the Syracuse community's trust in the Van Duyn Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing and ensure the facility remains in compliance with CMS' health and safety standards and consistently provides the highest quality of care to all of its residents.

I look forward to receiving answers to the questions above in a timely manner; thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Mannion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "J" and a long, sweeping "M".

John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress