

Media Advisory
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Chicago Attorney Steve Levin Available for Comment On SEIU Nursing Home Campaign on Carlyle Group and ManorCare

Plaintiffs' Lawyer Has Won Major Verdicts against ManorCare

CHICAGO, IL — The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is holding rallies across Illinois on Thursday to draw attention to the declining care suffered by nursing home residents after huge corporate takeovers. Chicago attorney Steve Levin is on the front lines of this battle, having won multi-million dollar lawsuits against the nursing home chain that prompted SEIU's grassroots campaign. He is available for comment about the urgency of SEIU's effort and the stakes for nursing home residents in Illinois.

Levin is a principal of Levin & Perconti, the firm that won a \$3.5 million verdict last year against ManorCare after a resident suffocated as a result of poor nursing care. ManorCare is the nation's largest nursing home chain and is now being taken over by the private equity giant, the Carlyle Group. After such takeovers, the quality of care at nursing homes tends to fall dramatically, as illustrated in a *New York Times* exposé last month. Levin and SEIU want to ensure that residents at ManorCare and other facilities maintain their rights and dignity.

The problem of declining care at corporate nursing homes, though national in scope, has an enormous local impact. ManorCare operates 30 facilities in Illinois, thus putting nearly 4000 residents at risk if the company is allowed to put profits over people. Indeed, according to a report by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 90 percent of Manor Care homes in Illinois are already staffed below the recommended standard. Further declines in care and staffing would be a disaster for the state's seniors.

SEIU is holding a Press Conference in Springfield on Wednesday at 10am with rallies at Chicago-area ManorCare facilities taking place on Thursday. For more information on the rallies visit www.nursinghomelaw.com.

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