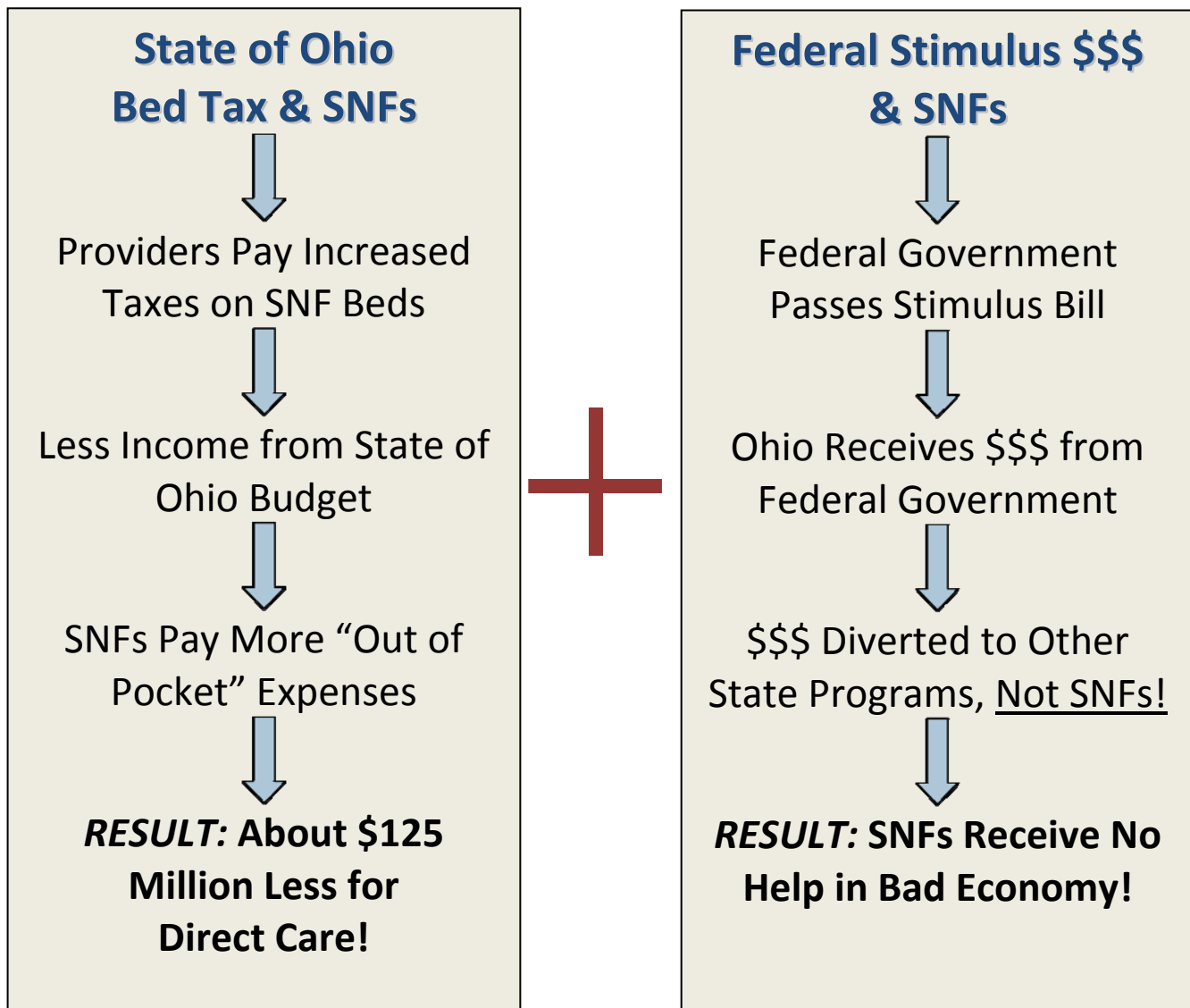


HOW THE STATE BUDGET AFFECTS YOU!

Although President Obama has given billions of dollars to Ohio's Medicaid program, Governor Strickland's budget reduces Medicaid payments to many Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and increases the taxes that nursing homes pay. Medicaid dollars make up a large portion of revenue for many SNFs, and allow them to purchase supplies to care for the residents, hire an adequate staff, and pay that staff at a competitive rate. **Further cuts in Medicaid reimbursement from the state may directly affect residents of SNFs and you, the staff that cares for them!**

How does it work?



What can you do?

Get involved today by letting the Governor and your state representatives know that you do not agree with the proposed budget that will likely reduce quality of care, prevent wage increases, and possibly create job losses among SNF employees across the state. Turn this page over to find out how you can make a difference!

You can make a difference!

Here's how YOU can help continue to provide quality care, avert wage decreases and prevent job loss!

- 1) Contact Governor Strickland and your local legislators. Send a letter or email to:
 - * Governor Ted Strickland
 - * Your State Senator
 - * Your State Representative(Information on how to find your legislator provided below.)
- 2) Make your letter or email personal. Do not use a form letter.
- 3) Let them know that without additional funding for skilled nursing facilities, Ohio is jeopardizing its ability to provide skilled quality care for the most frail and ill of our citizens.
- 4) Tell them that many Ohioans rely on Medicaid to pay for the wide range of care they receive from skilled nursing care facilities and that Medicaid funding hasn't kept up with the costs of providing care.
- 5) Help them understand that without fair funding, you, the direct care staff, won't be able to continue to provide skilled, quality care for our elderly and disabled Ohioans.
- 6) Inform them that you can't afford a wage decrease or a job loss—especially now, in this tough economy.
- 7) Thank them for their consideration of this vital issue.

How to Find Your Legislator:

- * Use the Legislative and Government Directory provided by The Ohio Academy of Nursing Homes, Inc.
- * If you have Internet access, please visit the following websites:
 - www.oanh.org (Legislative Action Center)
 - www.caringforohio.org (What You Can Do Now)