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**Alexa Schoeman**  
Deputy State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

March 24, 2025

Public Utility Commission of Texas

Project No. 57236 - Texas Backup Power Package Program

To the Public Utility Commission and the Backup Power Package Advisory Committee:

I am the Deputy State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, employed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The long-term care ombudsman program is independent within HHSC and represent the interests of tens of thousands of people who live in nursing facilities and assisted living facilities each year. These comments do not represent HHSC.

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman requests that PUCT add assisted living facilities to the definition of critical facilities. Assisted living facilities are licensed to serve over 80,000 residents in Texas. Extended power outages risk the health and safety of older and medically fragile assisted living facility residents just like they do to nursing facility residents. However, some assisted living facility operators have cited cost as the reason they are not able to install life-saving backup power at their locations. Specifically including assisted living facilities, in addition to nursing facilities, in the definition of critical facility will clarify these providers are able to apply for funding through the TBPP.

We further recommend that PUCT and HHSC provide outreach and education to licensed long-term care providers to ensure they are aware of the TBPP.

Sincerely,

Alexa Schoeman  
Deputy State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

## Executive Summary

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman recommends that:

1. PUCT specifically include “assisted living facilities” in the definition of critical facilities.
2. PUCT conduct outreach to nursing and assisted living facilities to ensure they are aware of the TBPP Program.