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Florida's 125% Surge in Property-Insurance Bills Sows Havoc.

- **Mounting costs push assisted-living centers in state to brink**
- **'We are headed into a train wreck,' one operator says**

For Filicia Porter, the insurance bills were the final straw. They'd been climbing steeply for her assisted-living business as Florida was battered with ever more-powerful storms, and eventually, the numbers stopped adding up.

So in March, she finally decided to call it quits, shutting the facility near Palm Beach that she opened just two years ago. That came four months after she closed an older location in Port St. Lucie, opened in 2017. Together, they left a dozen residents scrambling to find another place to live.

"Each year you see a rise. Why pay more?" said Porter, who first started The House of Cares to capitalize on the burgeoning demand for elder care as baby boomers flooded into the Sunshine State. But now, as her premiums soared on top of all her other costs, she just couldn't "continue to deplete" herself.

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Bloomberg Green

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May 20, 2024

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