

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
The Honorable Dennis Linthicum, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 815

Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee, for the record my name is Diana Allen and I am a retired Special Education Administrator from Corvallis, in Benton County.

I am asking for your support on SB 815. It's through our family's journey with my mother in the long-term care system, that I learned about the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program and its work on behalf of elders in community settings.

My mother, as did my father, suffered from Alzheimer's disease. When it became apparent that she was no longer safe in assisted living, we started looking at memory care. We met with the marketer for Conifer House Assisted Living and Memory Care, where a nice young man assured us my mother could age-in-place and have a home until she took her last breath. Moving to memory care was a huge step and we were relieved and hopeful that we had made a good decision.

Many months later I was told by the facility director that if/when my mom needed full assistance with eating and required two person transfers, she would have to go "somewhere else," such as a nursing home. We were shocked and not prepared for this news! It never occurred to our family that we might have to find another place for my mom to live. I guess you can say we dodged this bullet, as my mom passed away in October 2017, before we were confronted with another change.

In my mother's memory, I completed the training to become a volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman. In my first year as a certified Ombudsman, I've learned other families have had similar experiences to ours – marketers assured them their loved one could age in place. The unfortunate reality is when their mother became dependant on other's to feed her and she required two person transfers, they were told she had to move – she required too much care.

Facility marketers should be upfront with consumers about their care abilities and limitations. This means being very clear about what the facility **will do** and **won't do** for care when accepting new residents who experience Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

The intent of SB 815 is to increase consumer knowledge when seeking care for their loved ones. Families have a right to know if the facility they are considering provides end of life care. If facility marketers are upfront, then families can make truly informed decisions before placing loved ones in a long-term care setting.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 815.

Sincerely,

Diana Allen, Corvallis



Janet Allen and her kitty, Smokey