

I am writing in support of this bill.

My sister has been working closely with Senator Gelser to get this bill to a vote as we have watched first hand how insufficient care staff has contributed to severe decline and eventually the death of our mom Mary on February 21st 2021.

We want to ensure that the state sets a minimum mandatory staffing ratio for memory care partners to residents.

Currently the state has no mandatory required number of caregivers to patients in memory care facilities. It is up to the facility to determine what they feel is appropriate.

Since November 2019 my family has been daily visitors to my mom in several different facilities. Even prior to Covid we were constantly searching for care partners to help when my mom needed help going to the bathroom. Her desire to not wet herself while she waited for the normal 20 + minute response due to insufficient staff resulted in many falls and trips to the hospital with a fracture in her greater trochanter, the bone that goes into the hip socket.

I could go on and on but I want to be an advocate for all those other residents and patients who must remain at this time without the necessary care support.

I know there is a minimum number of staff to babies/children in diapers. These are adults who need the type of care that children get. Toileting, diaper changing, moving from bed to wheelchair for meals.

Please support this bill and encourage others to help pass it.

Our elderly population is only going to increase in the future and we need to address this now. Thank you for considering this.