

Senate Committee Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB 714, which establishes minimum staffing ratios in residential care facilities and facilities with memory care endorsements. I have been a Certified Ombudsman in residential care facilities for approximately two years. During this time, I have witnessed numerous incidents when staffing was not adequate to meet the needs of fragile, vulnerable elderly persons. This is especially true in enhanced care where residents can be unable to express their needs and must be checked frequently to assure care is provided in a timely manner. I am personally aware of times when necessary medications have been delayed by hours, falls have not been responded to in a timely manner and residents wait for extended periods for assistance with toileting, self care and mobility.

I urge you to support this bill to assure adequate care is provided for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you,  
Nena Strickland