

Honorable Senators Gelsler, Patterson, Manning Jr, Riley, Representative Reardon, Williams

I support SB 714.

As a spouse of a loved one who has had to endure short staffing in LTC facilities, I know that short staffing in LTCs has been an issue for a very long time. Staff training is another issue that needs to be addressed. When a person has to wait in soiled clothing or bedding for extended periods of time, often hours, because staff is not available is a disgrace. A baby in a care setting gets treated with more respect and dignity than our elders and disabled in many LTC facilities.

Staffing levels must be mandated to meet all the scheduled and unscheduled needs of all the residents at all times. This means that if 2 people need 2 aides at the same time one of them now has to wait for care. The staff ratios that are listed in SB 714 are a start, but don't go far enough. How is one caregiver supposed to clean, dress and feed 7 residents or 5 Alzheimer's patients for their morning meal at the same time? Many residents like to be up late and need extra care, or sleep late in the morning, so limiting the number of staff in the evenings and overnight is not good for residents. Staffing ratios need to be consistent with the habits and needs of residents, not for managements convenience.

I support this bill for the start of better staffing, but hope that it will be refined to give better care to our loved ones.

In support of SB 714

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