

My mother was a resident in a memory care facility in Oregon for over 2 years and I frequently witnessed inadequate care due to lack of staffing. Low staffing resulted in delayed response to falls, poor resident hygiene, long wait times when I pulled the room cord for assistance, and poor communication between family members and the staff.

During my daily visits, I often alerted caregivers on behalf of residents other than my mom because I had eyes on the residents when the staff did not. Frequently there was no staff to be found in the wing for up to an hour. It wasn't unusual to have one caregiver for 12 residents! When I complained about it, I was told the staffing levels were consistent with the state requirements. Many of the caregivers resented the management for not giving them the additional staffing levels they needed to do a good job.

Very little caregiver training prior to starting the job, high job turnover, and low pay are more issues that demand attention.

I urge passage of this bill for the safety and well-being of residents in a care facility. No one deserves this kind of negligence.