

Date: March 18 2021  
Re: Support for SB 714

I am writing as a daughter and advocate for my mother who is 94, has dementia and is in a long term memory care facility. Over the last 2 years, she has continued to decline after suffering blood clots, depression, weight loss and 2 falls, one resulting in a fractured shoulder which was immobilized for over 2 months. In September of 2020 she qualified for Hospice care. Her world is very small. She spends most of her days and nights in her bed as she is not ambulatory on her own. Therefore, she waits for someone to notice that she may need something.

I visit 3 times per week and have personally witnessed;

- Forgotten meals (I find a care partner and ask that she have a meal).
- No water or beverage within her reach.
- No dental care
- No engaging activities, as she is confined to her room.

During a Covid 19 outbreak at the facility, care partners with whom I was in contact told of "being the only one on staff to care for 14 residents". "We can't ask another care partner for help because they would be leaving their residents unsupervised." "We believe residents were neglected due to understaffing and lack of training."

These problems had begun long before the pandemic but were brought to light because of it.

I am urging you, as Legislators to support SB 714. Support this Bill for my mother, for me, for your loved ones and for yourselves.

Our time is coming. We may be in long term care facilities sooner than we know. Wouldn't you like the assurance of knowing that we all took steps to correct the problem of understaffing these facilities for a most vulnerable and growing population of Oregonians?

Respectfully,

Judith Smith  
Eugene, Oregon