

Hello,

This is Kathy Eastman from Hawthorne Gardens Family Council. I was also unable to navigate the official link to present my testimony. So I am going to present it here, I am told that the deadline is tomorrow.

Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Anderson, Senator Lieber, Senator Robinson, and Senator Taylor: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 714.

My father first moved into a Memory Care Facility on 11/9/2017. He passed away on 11/27/2020. He died of Covid19. During the three years that my Father spent in two different Memory care facilities he was severely neglected. This is due to low staffing, multiple management turnover and a government that turns a blind eye.

I'm going to cut right to the chase and ask you to think about this; It is common for individuals to have their bowel movements in the morning. These care facilities typically employ 2 caregivers on the day shift. They are responsible for up to 27 residents. How can two caregivers change the soiled clothing of 27 residents and feed them breakfast at the same time? This is absurd. I feel deeply sad for these underpaid hard working individuals. They deserve better.

Let me be even more explicit. In the last four months that my father was at the first facility, he was assaulted 3 times by agitated dementia patients. These assaults resulted in cuts and bruises and a black eye. He also experienced an additional four falls. That is a total of 7 falls in four months. During this same time he was given medication for a period of four months that he was not prescribed.

I moved him to another facility that cost more hoping he would get better care. Two weeks into his stay a caregiver called me and said my father had no clothes. Upon investigation, his clothes were found locked in a closet. None of his belongings were ever unpacked. None of his pictures were on the wall. His bedding was not on the bed he slept on.

These places are utter chaos!! And they cost between 6,000 to 8,000 a month, private pay. Medicaid pays only 4,400 which does not cover the cost of care.

These places are chaos because there is absolute bare-bone staffing. These places are chaos because apparently elders do not MATTER. And I ask you to consider this, WE ARE ALL GOING TO BE ELDERS SOON. In closing I am not convinced that my dad's death was not preventable and thus I am deeply saddened.

Being angry and fed up beyond belief I participated in an interview with journalist Fedor Zarkhin for the Oregonian. The title of the article was Senior care deaths soar as Oregon readies for a tough winter. My father's picture appeared on the front page. Check it out, he is the sweetest guy in the world. If you are in need of more info you can contact me through David Berger Ombudsman. Sincerely, Kathy Eastman