

30 March 2021

To: Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Re: Senate Bill 714

Dear Chair Senator Gelser, Vice-Chair Senator Anderson, and members of the Committee:

I am wholly in favor of passing SB 714 and strongly urge the committee to do so.

Although the number of Oregonians confined to residential and/or memory care facilities is a minority population group it is still an issue that has needed addressing for years.

I can only offer my own anecdotal experiences such facilities which although not unconcerned were indeed persistent, to the reasons this bill is long overdue.

In the late 1990s my mother was in an assisted living facility. It wasn't all bad but during the five years she remained there it was a continuous, drawn out struggle with the facility's administration to keep an adequate number of staff on duty to provide services to the resident.

For example, during the night-time for the duration of my mother's residency there was only one (1) staff person on duty to care for twenty-six (26) residents. My argument, pertaining to the inadequacy of having only one person to evacuate 26 others during an emergency, e.g., a fire, was not ignored, but it was never acted upon.

Even with the assistance of *Cascade West Council of Governments*, few, if any, improvements were made to the staff to resident ratio at that particular facility.

Again, I strongly urge the Committee to move this bill forward. It could be any of our elders who are caught up in the unpleasant situation of inadequate staffing with no recourse to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Wisner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Wisner