

I oppose HB 2638.

The idea of HB 2638 disturbs me greatly. Long Term Care Facility owners will tell you that they need protection from the unforeseen consequences of COVID-19, but they won't admit that most negative consequences are foreseeable and preventable with minimal effort and expense.

Many Long Term Care Facilities failed to take even minimal precautions to protect their vulnerable resident before the pandemic. I know this because I have resided in five different care facilities. I was hospitalized with life-threatening conditions due to inadequate staffing and staff training in three facilities. Three different staff members at my last facility admitted that they were told by the administrator to ignore me because I required too much care. I was often left in my own filth and eventually aspirated on my own vomit, and this was before residents were isolated for COVID-19.

No one knows what current conditions are in LTCF. Good facilities undoubtedly continue to give good care to residents. Facilities where owners think primarily of profits now have carte blanche to further reduce services to increase profits (think of the owners who own multi-million dollar mansions) because no one is looking.

Please don't allow uncaring, profit-oriented owners to escape responsibility for their actions or inactions that harm our most vulnerable adults.

Lives depend on you.