

January 31, 2025

Dear Chair Gelser-Blouin, Vice Chair Linthicum and Members of the Committee:

I have provided memory care for people with dementia for the last 40 years and I have been Chair of the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board of the Alzheimer's Association of New England. My very dear mother-in-law, Eve Nelson, was recently a resident of a long-term care facility in the State of Oregon. In the context of my professional activities and personal relationships, I am keenly aware that many older Americans, particularly those in long term care facilities, are vulnerable and need dedicated support and supervision. A requisite component of this supervision is the inclusion of family members who are attuned to and can advocate for each resident's needs. I am writing to voice my strong endorsement of Family Council bill - **SB #228**. When passed, this bill will provide family members with oversight of licensing regulations, resident rights, facility surveys, staffing quotas, care plans, etc. in order to ensure the well-being and safety of their loved ones.

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