

Support of SB #228 Independent Family Council

I am an avid proponent of the Independent Family Council model. I've learned so much and directly benefited from the support provided in the four years I've been a member.

Mom has late-stage dementia and has been in a long-term care facility for nearly eight years. During this time, we've witnessed some significant changes in leadership, some good and some not. By being a member of the council, I discovered a voice I never knew I had. The education, camaraderie and advocacy they provide has been a life line. In addition to being responsible for the well-being of our vulnerable loved one, many of us work full-time and have our own lives and families to manage. As a daughter of someone who cannot speak for herself and is completely dependent on others for all care, I'm so thankful for the work that Jewel Nelson and Judith Smith have begun. Everyone facing this challenge should have the opportunity to participate in an Independent Family Council. The support is invaluable for the residents and their families, and I have witnessed first-hand benefits for the facility as well. Family members are more engaged and have learned the best way to work with management for the mutual benefit of the residents' care.

As I am legally able to speak on behalf of mom, we both champion this effort to get the bill approved.

Thank you,
Debra Rollin