

Dear Rep. McKeown,

Please include the following in written testimony for HB 4083.

In the current rules and regulations for memory care facilities in Oregon, the training for care providers is primarily written to address “ behaviors” of dementia residents. With regards to dementia care trainings given by Alzheimer’s Association, Oregon Care Partners, and Oregon Health Care Association, the emphasis is primarily to address “behaviors” of dementia residents. Little if any addresses the training of basic nursing care skill sets. These skill sets come from certified nursing assistant classes and the certified medication assistant classes. These are the care issues crucially lacking in memory care facilities. Without this nursing care training it doesn’t matter how well one is trained to re-direct, distract, offer meaning activities, etc., when the resident is incontinent of urine/stool, and the care giver is not trained in basic perineal care. All of the activities of daily living(ADL’s) are a critical piece of the Certified Nursing Assistant.

Memory Care facilities deliver nursing care because of the increased acuity and multiple diagnosis of the residents. The industry’s term is “service plan”. The reality is these are nursing care plans for the individual physical, psychological, and spiritual needs for the residents.

Passing this legislation is an important first step in improving the quality of basic care in these facilities. It is the duty and charge of the Oregon State Board of Nursing to ensure the safe

practice of providing nursing care to the citizens of Oregon. No one else has this duty.

Respectfully,

Thomas Blastic