

April 3, 2017

To the House Committee on Health Care and Housing,  
**Concerning - HB 3063**  
Subject is Karen, my big sister

My heart breaks thinking of the hard life my sister endures. Knowing at times she can muster solitude from her confused, overwhelming existence gives me a bit of resolve.

As kids I feared her outburst, throwing a glass of milk across the room or yelling and storming out of the room. My parents exasperated allowed Karen to marry after she was pushed through graduating high school, tried to give her a college experience which failed miserably. After her 6 - month marriage ended she was hospitalized for a breakdown.

Karen has stocked shelves at night for thirty years. Hidden away from the over stimulation of daily engagement she has managed to work six nights a week. Our father passed 14 years ago, our mother at 48 years of age, Karen has always required financial assistance to survive. She is on a 3 year wait list for senior housing with two years yet to go for possible acceptance. The bigger question remains how Karen will react if and when she is accepted as any change unhinges her. The other side of the coin is supporting her until she can get the call she has made it to the top of list for senior housing.

Her paranoia and fear rule her life. Living alone is her saving grace as she controls her space and keeps at bay the outside intrusive world. But financially can she be maintained in her present situation? I am working to try. The looming burden is forever present.

I hold onto hope that the a senior housing option arrives in time for Karen's dire need. Her health is compromised by her mental deficiencies, bad eating habits, mounted with physical challenges from a previous broken leg and arm that continue to plague her.

I encourage support for House Bill 3063, to give low-income and first-generation college-bound students a future. Passing the bill and funding it means more individuals will succeed — both in the classroom and in life after they graduate.

In love of my sister,  
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