

Testimony of Jennifer Vaught
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My 78-year-old husband has been in longterm care for two years in S.E. Portland. He began in memory care and improved after several months and we could move him to assisted living. This improvement occurred under a management company that attended to staffing numbers and demonstrated a real concern for my husband. After one year with this management company who had adequate staff numbers and retained core staff the entire first year, the owners shifted to another management company presumably to increase profits. In the last year, under this second management company, his condition has become increasingly precarious, due our family believes , to inadequate numbers and training of staff.

The current management company is managed out of Chicago with an LLC in Florida. This firm hired all new administrative staff when they took over a year ago. Within one year there will have been three executive directors, and three directors of memory care. The building is so short staffed that workers are constantly pulled from their jobs to "cover" or are asked to work multiple shifts. This company is also heavily relying on temporary workers who are not trained to deal with the individual service plans we have negotiated with the facility. Administrators are constantly pulled from their work to fill in as care givers so the management has deteriorated markedly. When our Family Council attempted to address this staffing problem with letters signed by over thirty five family members, we were told that Oregon really has no firm staffing regulations.

You might think that our family could simply research care facilities again and move my husband. With his Lewy Body Dementia, the move could be so upsetting that his condition might weaken further. Also, in Oregon, any facility could be fine today and in just months or a year away undergo a management change that would cause the same problems we are now experiencing. The present system allows companies to pull maximum profits without accountability for safety and well managed care. Good care begins with appropriate staffing.

Please support Senate Bill 714. The lives of our families depend on it.

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