

Please support SB 714.

As a survivor of 5 different LTC facilities: 1 a skilled nursing facility, 3 medical rehabilitation facilities and 1 memory care facility, I can testify that many LTCs have insufficient staffing and poorly trained staff. Only 1 LTC of the five had sufficient caregivers to meet scheduled and unscheduled residents' needs. 3 facilities had insufficient staff to meet the scheduled needs of residents.

Morning (7 am to 3 pm) and evening (3:01 pm to 11 pm) staffing needs are roughly equal and require equal staffing to meet residents' needs. Residents in all settings often require assistance in (un)dressing, showering, feeding, toileting and other tasks, determined by each resident's needs. Tools used to determine level may be useful, if followed and reassessed even more than weekly if resident needs change- which can happen in a moment. Administrators must not be allowed to ignore rapidly changing staffing needs between scheduled assessments. Lives are at risk.

A 1:7 (caregiver: resident) ratio may be sufficient during resident waking hours, about 7 am to 10 pm, depending on resident acuity and anticipated activities. Post-operative or other high needs residents will require more care and staffing.

I survived 6 months in a memory care facility. It was understaffed with untrained staff who had few caregiving skills and less understanding of dementia patients' needs. Caregivers confided that the same problems were endemic to most care facilities. Dementia patients can have challenging behaviors and disrupted sleeping patterns. There is no "typical" night in memory care. Staffing must reflect that reality.

Another concern that is touched on in SB714 is enforcement of provisions therein and in other situations, where laws and regulations are ignored. Even when infractions are documented, little changes because there is no incentive to spend money to improve residents' conditions. Investigators may admit to facility bias because residents can't be trusted to remember the truth. This is a systemic bias that dehumanizes the very people it is supposed to protect.

Thank you for listening to my LTC facilities concerns from the viewpoint of a person who has spent more than a couple years in 5 of them. I believe that you are struggling to find the best way to protect everyone involved, and I appreciate all that you are doing.

Please support SB714

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