

Subject: testimony in support of SB 714

Thank you so much for championing this bill.

Most sincerely,

erik haunold
Corvallis, OR

It's said that one should rate the quality of a system not by how it works in the best of times, but how it responds in times of crisis. Prior to the pandemic, memory care and long-term facilities had already struggled to provide quality care to residents - not because the staff didn't care for residents, but simply because inadequate staffing coupled with market forces means that facilities will get by with the minimum direct care staff as possible. Staff is simply expected to work harder. These are extremely difficult jobs under the best circumstances; pre-pandemic, family and friends were able to fill the gaps in coverage, but with the pandemic locking out the family of loved ones, the major shortcomings have been thrown into sharp relief.

My mother spent the final year of her life in a memory care facility where I was able to observe her decline over several months. The staff did their best to care for my mother and the other residents, but given the added strain of COVID19 restrictions and protocols, I strongly believe that her care was compromised due to inadequate staffing. While improving staffing ratios will not alone solve the endemic problems of the memory care industry, they would be a step in the right direction to ensure that the care of loved one will not fall victim to market forces.