

My 99 year old mother lives in Hawthorne Gardens Assisted Living and I am writing to support SB 714; a bill that addresses adequate staffing for Residential Care Facilities. I have been concerned about adequate staffing at Hawthorne Gardens for nearly a year, calls go unanswered, and until recently the front desk was not staffed. In January, at a patient care conference, the administrator and the nurse who care for my mother, Virginia Tipton, stated that for her safety she needed to be moved to Memory Care due to her increasing confusion and forgetfulness. Our family agrees with this assessment but as of my last phone call to administration, this move had not taken place. Because I am unable to visit in person it is hard to know what is really going on but I do know responsiveness is lacking; in January, VT's physician ordered a Roho cushion because my mother is wheelchair dependent. I visited late February and she was not using the cushion; I called and the RN said she didn't know anything about it. I had the tracking number and who signed for it; then the RN called back and it was found but was not being used. I have listened to other families who have someone in Hospice, and thus are able to go into the facility, their stories are heart rendering. Adequate staffing is essential for people who at this stage in their life are not able to advocate for themselves. Please pass this bill. Thank you so much.

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Susan Tipton