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Weidman-Jones, Gail

From: Erin Parker [Eeparker@pahousegop.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2008 11:40 AM
To: Weidman-Jones, Gail
Subject: Fwd: Assisted Living Regulations

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Gail,

On behalf Representative Kate Harper (R-61), I just wanted to pass along this comment from one of our constituents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,
Erin

Erin E. Parker
Legislative Assistant
Representative Kate M. Harper
61st Legislative District
P.O. Box 202061
149 A East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2061
Phone: (717) 787-2801
www.kateharper.net

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>>> "Elmer Heiland" <eheiland@actslife.org> 10/1/2008 3:41 PM >>>
Elmer Heiland
1001 S. Valley Forge Rd,
Lansdale, PA 19446-6502

October 1, 2008

The Honorable Kate Harper
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
149A East Wing, PO Box 202061
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2061

Dear Representative Harper:

Dear Kate,

I am a nursing home administrator in the Lansdale area and resident of Blue Bell. I need to bring to your attention my concerns with the proposed legislation to establish regulation and impose barriers to access for the

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assisted living.

I am very upset with PA taking ownership of the name assisted living and under the guise of making MA dollars available, establishing a third regulatory environment and care environment that only serves to break the back of the industry and prevent seniors from getting needed care.

As drafted the new regulations will prevent the majority current providers from being licensed, and without revision few providers will choose to be licensed as 'Assisted Living Residences' This is because the regulation will make 'Assisted Living Residences' so costly (estimates have ranged from \$4,500-\$7,000/month depending upon region) that low and moderate income Pennsylvanians will not be able to afford or access this care.

Some of the significant cost increases in this legislation are over extensive square footage requirements and licensure fees that would change from \$50 for a 100 bed unit to \$11,000.

The regulations also call for significant changes in staffing supposedly aimed to manage a higher acuity level, however, requirements are beyond current levels for a skilled care residence.

Additionally, the inability to carry a dual licensed status for Assisted Living and Personal Care beds flaws a system that will require us to have either all lower cost person care beds or all higher cost assisted living beds. Once again leaving out a large segment of PA's needful population.

Please help us to defeat this proposed regulation and urge them to do their homework first. The appropriate studies and right legislation will help to define this new level of care and provide benefit to all segments of the population.

Sincerely,

Elmer E. Heiland MBA, NHA
215-853-2725