

14-514 L-3  
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#2712  
Department of Public Welfare  
Division of Long Term Care Client Services  
Attention Gail Weidman  
PO Box 2675  
Harrisburg PA 17105

Re: Proposed Assisted Living Regulations

August 12, 2008

To whom it may concern:

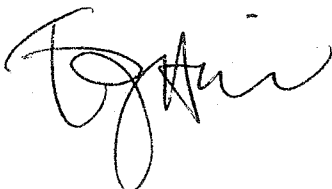
I am writing to express my disappointment with the proposed assisted living regulations. Along with the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Pennsylvania Assisted Living Consumer Alliance (PALCA), I concur that they do not address urgent issues such as questions of residents' rights, staff qualifications, training and resident ratio requirements, physical site design, fire and safety codes, aging in place considerations, consumer choice, control, autonomy and an enforcement system.

For example, as proposed, fundamental consumer protections are missing. To wit, as proposed, a consumer would have to move in, sign a contract for residency and services, and begin payment to the facility weeks before the facility would be required to identify the consumer's care needs and explain to the consumer and her family how they proposed to meet those needs or even how much it would cost. As proposed, direct care staff would not have to complete a minimum amount of training hours and not all direct care staff would need any training in first aid or CPR. As proposed, facilities that exist as of the day the regulations take effect would not have to meet the best available standards or practices for fire safety or even wheelchair accessibility.

This is not some theoretical point for me: my mother moved into an assisted living facility four years ago and ended up dying there almost two years ago, so I have a vast pool of information from which to draw, as does my sister and my brother.

I can only hope that as a representative of the state's citizens and the elderly that you will pay attention to PALCA and other comments to address these severe deficiencies.

Sincerely,



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REVIEW COMMISSION

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