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**Mowery, Brian**

**From:** kspag@sharpaccess.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 09, 2009 8:47 AM  
**To:** PW, asstdliving  
**Subject:** Comments on new Legislation

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Hello- I am an RN whose mother suffered severe consequences from inadequate training of staff in a supposedly reputable assisted living facility named Autumn House and also later at Manor Care Kingston Ct. nursing home here in York, Pa. My story is s long one and if you are interested I will relay it to you but basically my mother was sent to the ER 3 times from an assisted living facility which she lived in less than 3 weeks..in York due to medication errors for her heart and breathing. ALL of which could have been avoided had the staff had any knowledge of the medications which is totally impossible since they are aides not LPN or RN's ! My mom ended up in the hospital for 1 week & then a nursing home due to their errors & they were fined and cited. Big deal- they still operate the same.

The worst part is that I had my mother's meds written in a MSW document clearly spelled out, sat down with the LPN in charge of the facility to go over the meds, and sat down again after an error was made and went back the same evening because the aide had not given the meds and my mom called me to say so....then when my mom had shortness of breath and chest pain-n The AIDE did not administer nitroglycerine for the chest pain and left my mom alone in her room until an ambulance arrived...I HAD TO INSTRUCT THE AIDE OVER THE PHONE ON HOW TO TREAT MY MOM UNTIL THE AMBULANCE GOT THERE because an AIDE has no way of understanding medications and never will because they are not nurses...a licensed nurse needs to administer medications and administer treatments -period ! Let alone they had my mom's meds thrown in a big drawer with other patients meds...

You have no idea how may elderly are dumped to ER's because these assisted living places have such inadequately trained staff.They basically are one step away from living in a nursing home and the patients have multiple medical problems that are usually complicated..but if a trained nurse was on staff they could most likely handle the situation without having to go to the ER by simply calling the Dr. and treating in place.

All I know is that after my experience I believe it would be better to leave an elderly person home alone unattended & do the best you can to care for them than to pay 2,000 a month to occupy a space in a home & be neglected anyway. The nursing home was no better-my mom fell there after passing out because she waited so long to get a breathing treatment- she fractured her face, stopped breathing and was sent to the trauma unit. Then she actually died because she was not given her breathing treatment because the staff was busy feeding residents...my mom called me 20 minutes before she died begging me to come suction her because she had been waiting too long and could barely breathe. I really could go on for days but I'll leave it at that. If you want more concrete information I have it. I will never ever place anyone in my family in a nursing home or assisted living even if

that means they have to be home all day alone and sit in their own excrement-because the care they received in those facilities was far worse than having to stay home alone.

Kathleen Spagnola RN