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Gail Weiderman  
Department of Public Welfare  
Office of Long-Term Care Living  
P.O. Box 265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

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09/10/08

2008 SEP 19 PM 3:11

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Weiderman:


I am the daughter of an assisted living facility resident and therefore concerned about the proposed regulations. The proposed assisted living regulations #14-514 do not ensure that Pennsylvania's elderly and persons with disabilities can be safely served in a home-like setting. The changes made thus far must be preserved in the final regulatory package, but they are not enough to deliver on the promise of safely serving our loved ones in assisted living facilities. Many more changes must be made to ensure that assisted living facilities are equipped, enabled and accountable for providing all residents with quality care, provided by appropriate numbers of adequately trained staff in a home-like setting that is safe, accessible and stimulating.

Some ways in which the proposed regulations need to be changed before becoming final include:

- Adding fundamental consumer protections for all assisted living residents.
- Requiring a preadmission needs and cost assessment to determine if the facility can or cannot meet a consumer's specific needs, prior to signing a contract for residency and services.
- Requiring all, including existing facilities, to meet the best available standards for fire safety.
- Requiring enough direct care staffing to meet individual needs of the residents.
- Requiring all living units to be wheelchair accessible with no less than 250 square feet of living space, with no exceptions.
- Providing consumers with a right and process to challenge a facility's decision to kick them out.
- Assure the resident has a right to use or otherwise choose their own healthcare providers.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Keyser  
701 Main Street  
Peckville, PA 18452

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