

14-524-2

PLEASE REPLY TO:

COMMITTEES

12TH DISTRICT
STEWART J. GREENLEAF
711 NORTH YORK ROAD
WILLOW GROVE, PA 19090-2124
(215) 657-7700
(215) 657-1885 FAX

RECEIVED
IRRC



JUDICIARY, CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING AND INSURANCE
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
SOUTHEASTERN PA TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY (SEPTA)
TASK FORCE ON DECEDENTS' ESTATES LAWS
TASK FORCE ON DOMESTIC RELATIONS LAW
TASK FORCE ON REAL PROPERTY LAW
TASK FORCE ON ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION SERVICES

SENATE BOX 203012
ROOM 19 EW
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3012
(717) 787-6599
(717) 783-7328 FAX

2010 DEC -6 P 1

Senate of Pennsylvania

December 1, 2010

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF LTL

DEC 02 2010

2880

Ms. Yvette Sanchez-Roberts
Bureau of Policy & Strategic Planning
Department of Public Welfare/Department of Aging
Office of Long-Term Living
555 Walnut Street, Forum Place, 5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1919

Ref: _____

Dear Ms. Sanchez-Roberts:

I am writing today to express support for the Department of Public Welfare's proposed rulemaking which would, in part, allow Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) to access MA certified beds under limited circumstances.

As you know, CCRCs provide independent living, assisted living, and nursing home care on a single campus. I have had the privilege of visiting the residents of a CCRC in my district, Ann's Choice, and understand that these facilities are a viable and necessary complement to our long term living system. Residents access quality health services they need without having to move to a new location for care.

As it stands now, the department's policy on long term care essentially places a moratorium on nursing homes who wish to either add new MA beds or seek to become MA certified. Some CCRCs, particularly those that serve middle-income seniors, have residents who truly exhaust their assets. However, the policy requires a CCRC resident to leave his or her home if he or she needs MA in the nursing home component of a CCRC and the facility either has no MA certified beds or needs additional MA beds. This policy disrupts the life of seniors who could be adequately cared for at the nursing home within the CCRC. For those seniors who do spend down their resources, Pennsylvania should permit them to access MA benefits at the CCRC.

Having previously sponsored legislation (SBs 342 and 349) that would provide for the transfer of MA beds between licensed nursing facilities and a limited exemption for CCRCs to obtain MA certified beds, I appreciate and support the department's efforts to address this problem via the proposed rulemaking. This regulation is in the best interest of the MA program as well as the seniors it serves. By providing a tailored approach to enable MA participation by CCRCs, the Commonwealth can help ensure that this option of long term care remains viable and doesn't hamper the growth of this industry. The proposed regulation will help allow seniors to age in place while preventing growth in the total MA program.

Sincerely,

Stewart J. Greenleaf

SJG:ep