



August 5, 2021

Department of Health
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Attn: Lori Gutierrez, Deputy Director
Office of Policy

Re: Rulemaking 10-221 (Long-Term Care Facilities, Proposed Rulemaking 1)

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of comment on the recently proposed rule, "Department of Health, Title 28. Health and Safety, Part IV. Health Facilities, Subpart C. Long Term Care Facilities, 28 Pa. Code §§201.1-201.3: 211.12(I), Long Term Care Nursing Facilities".

This letter is being sent on behalf of the residents we serve and the direct care staff of Broad Mountain Health & Rehabilitation Center. Our nursing facility is a 129 bed facility located in Frackville, Pennsylvania. We employ 86 employees and provide services to 102 residents. As the Director of Nursing, I can attest to our facilities commitment to providing high quality care and prioritizing the needs of the residents we serve each and every day.

After reviewing the proposed regulation, we have grave concerns regarding the amendments to increase the required minimum number of hours of general nursing care from 2.7 to 4.1 hours for each resident and excluding other direct care provided by essential caregivers.

As of today, we have 28 open nursing positions. We have been utilizing agency staffing since 2017 and the need has grown greatly with Covid-19. It has always been very difficult to fill open positions in our area and even harder with the Pandemic and unemployment benefits.

We have such difficulty in filling our current positions that I don't know how we would fill the additional positions needed to meet the 4.1 hours.

Thank you for your time in reviewing and considering our comments. We are hopeful that the Department will amend the provisions contained in §211.12(I) in a manner that will address the concerns raised in our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Rafferty".

Erin Rafferty, RN
Director of Nursing