



From: [Martin, Holly](#)
To: [DH, LTCRegs](#)
Cc: [advocacy@phca.org](#)
Subject: [External] Re: Rulemaking 10-221 (Long-Term Care Facilities, Proposed Rulemaking 1)
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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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, I work for Transitions Healthcare, LLC. As the Payroll Coordinator, I work with four (4) nursing homes operating across the Commonwealth. Collectively, these facilities are licensed for 478 beds, employ 622 employees and serve over 408 residents. Our organization is committed to providing high quality care and prioritizing the needs of the residents we serve each and every day.

After reviewing your proposed regulation, we have concerns regarding the mandatory increase of the minimum number of hours of general nursing care from 2.7 to 4.1 hours for each resident, which excludes other direct care provided by essential caregivers.

We are currently facing staffing shortages and are relying on agency staff to provide the direct care needed for our residents. An increase in the minimum requirement and lack of funding will make it more difficult for us to provide the quality of care needed for our residents. Other essential care workers, such as, physical therapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, wound care nurses and activities directors, should all be counted in the direct care hours.

Thank you for your time in reviewing and considering our comments. We are hopeful that the Department of Health will address our concerns and work with providers and staff to ensure continued access to long-term care services in Pennsylvania. We are hopeful that the Department of Health will amend the

provisions contained in §211.12(i) in a manner that will address the concerns raised in our comments.

Sincerely,

Holly Martin

Payroll and Audit Coordinator

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