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Form Letter C 1-178

Stephen Hoffman

From: DH, LTCRegs <RA-DHLTCREGS@pa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:32 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Public Comment – proposed long term care nursing facility regulation – Reg#10-221
Attachments: PHCA Form Letter 3.pdf; SEIU Form Letter 2.pdf; UFCW Form Letter 4.pdf; DOH_Reg#10221_WeekEnding_08.26.21_1.zip

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Attached is batch 1 (of 2) of public comments received by the Department of Health for Proposed Long Term Care Nursing Facility Regulations #10-221 from Friday, August 20, 2021 through Thursday, August 26, 2021. (The second batch will be sent in a separate email due to attachment size limits.)

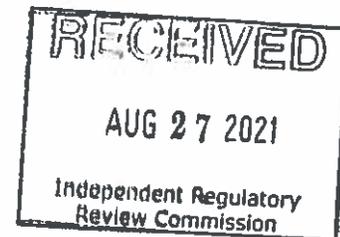
From August 20, 2021 to August 26, 2021, the Department received 1,116 copies of the attached form letter we have identified as "SEIU Form Letter 2." This form letter is identified on the IRRC website as "FORM LETTER A."

From August 20, 2021 to August 26, 2021, the Department received 12 copies of the attached form letter we have identified as "PHCA Form Letter 3." This form letter is identified on the IRRC website as "FORM LETTER B."

From August 20, 2021 to August 26, 2021, the Department received 178 copies of the attached form letter we have identified as "UFCW Form Letter 4."

Sincerely,

Lori Gutierrez
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Dear Pennsylvania Department of Health,

I am writing to express my support for lifting Pennsylvania's Safe Staffing Standard to 4.1 hours per resident per day for nursing homes, as proposed in the PA Department of Health's proposed updates announced on July 21st, 2021.

For decades, our long-term care system has faced dwindling staffing and lower care standards. The result is a system that has not been prioritizing residents or caregivers that is sustainable in 2021 and beyond. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has put enormous strains on staff and residents at long-term care facilities throughout the Commonwealth. Over 13,000 nursing home residents died from COVID, and countless workers lost their lives and fell ill.

The failures are in part to archaic state nursing home regulations, which have not been updated in 30 years.

But finally, the demands of workers, residents, and advocates have been heard.

Pennsylvania's current nursing home regulations include staffing standards that fall well below what's needed to provide quality care. Under the current regulations, residents are only required to receive 2.7 hours of care per day. For years, advocates in Pennsylvania have been calling for a new safe staffing standard lifting that requirement to 4.1 hours, the minimum standard recommended by elder care experts. With this proposed update, Governor Wolf has taken a big step towards making that a reality.

These reforms are key to transforming Pennsylvania nursing homes to protect residents and those who care for them.

I urge you to do everything in your power to support the Wolf Administration's nursing home regulation reform.

Sincerely,