



WINDY HILL VILLAGE

a PRESBYTERIAN SENIOR LIVING community



August 20, 2021

Lori Gutierrez
Deputy Director, Office of Policy
625 Forster St
Room 814 Health & Welfare Building
Harrisburg PA 17120

Ms. Gutierrez,

I am writing you today in hopes that the recommendation for Nursing Home Facilities to go to a 4.1 PPD be reconsidered. This change would dramatically affect our staff and essentially our residents negatively at this time. The impact of Covid has affected our facilities in ways that we could never imagine. Staffing has been an issue since the onset of the disease. The staff that have weathered the storm and stood by our residents through it all are weary and continue to show up and work long hours to provide the best care possible to our residents. With the lack of people looking for work, the openings that we have had throughout the Pandemic have been extremely hard to fill if at all. The existing staff are working those extra hours already. We have been able to run above the 2.7 State minimum throughout, but a proposed 4.1 minimum will be near to impossible in our small rural community without people looking for work. We currently have office staff with backgrounds in nursing assisting as floor nurses. Staff from other departments are helping to assist anywhere they can help. We have been running open houses, advertising in every possible way, offering sign on bonuses and referral bonuses, but we have had little luck in addressing all of the openings. I fear that this proposal will stress the amazing staff that have worked through this Pandemic to the limit. It is my concern that they will leave the field completely and our residents will ultimately pay that price. They would lose the caregivers that they love and have grown accustomed to. Who will then be qualified to take care of the residents? I am asking that you please reconsider the 4.1 PPD recommendation and keep the 2.7 minimum in place. Our neighboring states such as West Virginia operate at a 2.25 NHPPD and both Ohio and New Jersey at a 2.5 NHPPD. If this is not possible and the PPD does pass to a 4.1, please consider granting us time to ramp up to the increase in PPD. Some of us will have to continue extreme measures to accomplish this goal. We will need time to try to meet the proposed goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Michelle Mann
Executive Director/NHA
Windy Hill Village
100 Dogwood Dr
Philipsburg, PA 16866