



August 18, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Gutierrez,

As a Board Member at LGAR Health and Rehabilitation Center in Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania I am writing to convey my concern about the recently announced, tentative plan for regulatory changes in Pennsylvania.

I strongly urge the authors of these changes to pause and more thoughtfully re-think this intended legislation.

There are many aspects of the part one draft that was just released that give cause for comments from our nursing home. However, I am writing to express a broader, yet unknown, concern. The draft documents indicate there will be further regulatory changes coming. Please provide our nursing home leaders all the tentative changes in one package. Let them have proper time to assimilate any final approved changes into a plan appropriate for their organization.

I also urge you to consider the cost of the proposed changes, specifically the proposed increase in NHPPD to 4.1 per shift. The pandemic has caused many nursing homes to suffer both financially and with employee recruitment. Medical Assistance has not increased funding to nursing homes in over 7 years. I ask you to consider how the increase in NHPPD would be funded.

If it is time for changes in Pennsylvania, let's make them reasonable, reflective of the times, non-punitive and of a design for successful implementation and sustenance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Callie L. Toddhunter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Callie Toddhunter

Board Member, LGAR Health and Rehabilitation Center