

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: Karen Paulus <kareniola@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2021 1:55 PM
To: Irrchelp
Cc: Karen Paulus
Subject: comments nursing home regulation change

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Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed increase in level of direct care to 4.1 hours daily per patient, from current 2.7 hours.

I support this increase as well as an increase in Pa medicaid reimbursement rate for nursing home settings.

Included in this request is an increase in the hourly wage for support staff ie CNA's along with fair health and vacation benefits.

All staff need ongoing training to ensure quality care. This includes performance evaluations that are timely and ensure professional growth.

Staff in supporting roles such as activity staffing need ongoing training and support especially related to behaviors presented by people with various levels of dementia.

In addition social work staff need be maintain at a level to support coping by residents and caregivers.

All of this requires increase oversight or monitoring by outside state staff with expertise in health and aging.

I would also add there is an need to ensure that residents are admitted with a 'need' for nursing care and or rehabilitation service and not place because there is no community setting available. The reverse is also important. Those receiving community based service should have a 'need' by a standard assessment for that level of care.

The COVID pandemic has brought to the fore a serious shortcoming in Pennsylvania's lack of care for our large population of older adults needing this level of care.

Last, we all need to address ageism and how it impacts our policy both on the community level and state level.

Please do not compromise.

Karen Paulus
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