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**To:** [DH.LTCRegs](#)  
**Cc:** [Mary\\_Knapp@Foulkeways.org](#); [Phil\\_DeBaun@Foulkeways.org](#)  
**Subject:** [External] proposed Department of Health (DOH) Pennsylvania Nursing Facility Licensure Regulations to 28 PA. Code 201 and 211 to Federal Code 42 CFR Part 483  
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August 29, 2021

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

**Re: Proposed Department of Health (DOH) Pennsylvania Nursing Facility Licensure Regulations to 28 PA. Code 201 and 211 to Federal Code 42 CFR Part 483**

Dear Ms. Gutierrez:

I would like to address the above referenced proposed regulatory changes.

Come this fall, my father and stepmother will have been living at Foulkeways in Gwynedd, PA for 12 years. My Dad moving there was my first experience with Foulkeways but my stepmother is the third generation of her family to live there. Not just live there ..... to be a part of the community.

In reading through the proposed regulations they state that, "the minimum standards are to assure safe, adequate and efficient facilities and services and to promote the health, safety and adequate care of patients or residents of those facilities," and "to assure that citizens receive humane, courteous and dignified treatment". My first reaction was, "of course!" and then, "but Foulkeways already does that!"

It seems that the main goal of the proposed changes is to make the process easier on the Commonwealth. But where is the regard for the actual residents at Foulkeways? How are these changes going to make things better for my Dad and my stepmother? I found it of interest that none of the three facilities that you're seeking to bring in line with these changes were even participants in the Work Group to review the necessity and impact of the proposed changes. How can you declare that the impact is minimal when you never actually surveyed those that need to make the changes? And, why are the additional regulations even required when the three facilities in question don't even accept Medicare/Medicaid dollars? It seems to me you're going after style over substance.

I, for one, would prefer that the Foulkeways staff attend to and care for my Dad, my stepmother and all the residents. They choose to be there for a reason.

And I would like to state very clearly that Foulkeways has done a fantastic job during the exceedingly challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The months and months of lockdown were very difficult for all of us. I had more than one trip to visit cancelled at the last minute due to health protocols. It was frustrating and a fair number of tears were shed. But THE MOST IMPORTANT THING was that Foulkeways kept my Dad and my stepmother safe. They have risen to the occasion and worked their way through this ongoing crisis. I know they care. A lot. Not just about my Dad and my stepmother but about all the residents. And if I didn't know it before March 2020 the past 18 months have brought it into sharp focus. They are doing their job and they are caring for every single person there. In my opinion, the Commonwealth's need to streamline some regulations that actually don't even apply to Foulkeways in the first place definitely do not outweigh and should not take priority over the well run facility that is providing excellent care just as it is. Please don't burden them with regulations that aren't necessary just to satisfy and resolve some line item on an agenda. It's not simply about crossing that item off and patting a back to say it's done. The downstream effects must and should be considered.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. This strikes me as a solution in search of a problem. As my Daddy has said many times, "to a man with a hammer, every problem looks like a nail."

Let me close by quoting my Dad once again. For twelve years now I have heard him say in practically every conversation ..... "this is a nice place to live!" Please keep it that way. Let the staff take care of their facility and residents the best way they know how. It's their boots on the ground in Gwynedd. They know what's best for them. And for my Dad. And for my stepmother.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Ackerman

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