

05/27/2020

Representative Timothy Ginter,

I am writing as an Ohioan and as someone concerned about our seniors and their caregivers in assisted living communities as a result of COVID-19. I urge you to commit to providing these communities with the protective equipment, virus testing and financial support they need to continue providing care.

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus and their caregivers are working around the clock on the front lines to protect them. But they need more protective equipment and a lack of testing makes it almost impossible to stop the virus from spreading. It is critical for communities to be able to test residents and staff.

Our family have not been able to visit our mother for over two months. Her roommate has recently tested positive for the virus. She was removed and hospitalized and our mother has been isolated. Mom has Alzheimer's disease. She has no idea what is happening around her. Isolation is her new reality. The staff have isolated themselves as well.

As we look to to return to normal, senior living should be prioritized for testing, personal protective equipment and the important resources they need to fight the virus and help the senior living community get back to the place that they call home.

Nationally, skilled care facilities have just received 4.9 billion dollars in federal monies to fight COVID-19. Assisted Living needs federal financial support too. We have many of the same issues as skilled care facilities do and we care for a similarly vulnerable population.

I urge you to consider the needs of Assisted Living Communities by prioritizing our communities for personal protective equipment, testing and financial support.

Sincerely,

Lisa Treboni
Columbus, Ohio