

12/8/2020

Chair Ginter, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Howse, and the members of the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony as a interest party of HB 770. I am POA of my mother.

My mother has Dementia is in a memory care unit in an Assisted Living Facility. I am her POA and cannot do the things it legally authorizes me to do and what I have committed to do for my mother in overseeing her wellbeing. My mother is denied access to me who she depends on more than any other person to support and assist her 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. I am always here for her. But she is denied that right to assistance and support I give, by me not being allowed in the facility in her room in person.

As part of being her POA, I am her "Essential Caregiver". It is confusing things to make a new name for what I already am.

This is elder abuse to leave residents in their rooms without interaction with their loved ones. All needs are important. Their mental health is just as important as their physical health. Feeling isolated and abandoned will cause her to decline and it will affect her physical health as well. The staff cannot replace me. I cannot tell my mom see you in five months, she depends on me right now.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cheryl Leissa
903 Cottonwood Ct.
Eastlake Ohio 44094
440-477-3860