

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 12/04/2020

Name: Scott Peters

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Randall Residence

Position/Title: Director of Operations

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 770

Specific Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? Written testimony

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

The bill is not needed and creates additional burden on providers without achieving substantial gain to current policy.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Chairman Ginter and Representatives of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to share feedback and testimony on the proposed HB 770. I am writing in opposition of this proposal.

As a senior living operator we have had many ups and downs with COVID over the last 10 months. As we have implemented new policies and procedures, isolations and quarantines, our senior living communities, the residents, families and staff have experienced an overwhelming amount of emotion and change. Our primary goal and mission has been to keep residents safe and deliver on our promises of care. Our Executive Directors and community leaders know too well the impact this has had on everyone involved and I have seen tremendous courage in making hard decisions.

As visitation was implemented throughout the summer our community leaders and employees implemented new changes that increased the risks for residents and staff. While a many of our families were compliant and understanding we have many who challenged our processes and put so many more at risk. We implemented this visitation knowing the risks and knowing how important this interaction was for families and residents.

**Today, I speak in opposition of HB 770 as proposed because it creates yet another carve out for an already in place process of visitation for families. As we work to prevent the spread of COVID in our communities this bill only adds to the risk of exponential spread .**

While I see the bill's purpose is constructed with good intent it adds administrative burden to an already difficult task of what we are tasked to do on a day to day basis. The bill does not adequately address necessary testing of these essential caregivers and it does not effectively limit the scope of what these essential caregivers can do and if they are properly trained. It puts the burden of effectively training these designated individuals back on us as the provider when we are already stretched thin in providing the services daily.

The bill also expands to "Essential health care workers." We have worked closely and carefully with our care partners to evaluate what is necessary and imminent need. We have performed countless virtual appointments and expanded the opportunities to have these interactions take place. We do not think that we have been overly restrictive with these measures, but this bill adds regulatory remedy to outside providers who may think that we have over stepped and places time and resource burden on the Department of Health to investigate.

This bill is proposed in what we think is the doorstep of an effective vaccine which helps put us on the path for normalcy and safety in our communities. Please know as direct care providers we are intimately involved and want normalcy for the families. Please do not add to an already established system that provides pathways for the connections that families want.

Thank you

Scott Peters, Director of Operations

Randall Residence