

My 58 year old husband, Mark, has been in a Nursing Home over 2 years and is dying from Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease. He is in the end stages and requires 24 hour care. He cannot even ask for a drink of water. Unfortunately, Alzheimer's Disease is different for everyone and it's difficult to know a timeline of how much time he has left. Early Onset is especially brutal taking your cognitive abilities at a young age. Mark was diagnosed at only 51. Prior to the shutdown I was there every day helping care for him. Now, I am only allowed to see him once every 4 days for an hour and that is not enough. Mark cannot talk or walk and I am only able to communicate with him by helping care for him. I have considered bringing him home many times but I work and our youngest son is in college. I am desperate to have the Compassionate Caregiver Act enacted so that I can care for my husband again. He is not actively dying but he is dying and I am not able to help him through this last part of his life. Please do the right thing and pass this bill. I am able to take and am willing to take any precautions that the staff does. This also would only help the staff as Mark needs fed and changed. I am able to do those things and desperately want to. Please let me be with him when he needs me most.

Thank you, Joni Shaw