

I am writing to strongly encourage you to vote for and promote HB 120 for Compassionate Caregivers.

I moved my 90 year old mother to an assisted living facility in January 2020 from Colorado so that I could assist in her care needs and she could enjoy being close to family. By March 13, her facility was in lockdown. I had just two months with her before her isolation began. Can you imagine being in a new state, in a new facility, with new faces and suddenly required to shelter in place? It took months for visitation to begin, and then it was one time a week on the porch for 30 minutes. No hugs. No touches. With the onset of dementia the whole scenario was and continues to be very confusing for her. Visitations were always interrupted if there was a Covid case in the building or with staff. Visitations completely stopped in November and are just opening up again this month for limited time and once a week. In 2020 we missed spending her birthday together, her granddaughter's birthday and mine, Thanksgiving, Christmas and now her birthday again. The isolation has been a tremendous hardship for her and her family! Staff members are allowed to come and go and live their lives outside of the facility. No one is monitoring whether or not their actions are considered safe! It is not fair that I am not afforded the same consideration. Now that her facility has received the vaccine, there are no more excuses for keeping seniors isolated!

I am strongly urging you to permit an essential caregiver into her apartment for the necessary love, personal care and familial connection our seniors desire and need.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kay Cohen

Best wishes and warmest regards