



ELDERLY ADVOCATES
Dedicated to Quality Care in Ohio

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Interested Party Written Testimony, HB 120

March 10, 2021

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the House Families, Aging and Human Services Committee:

Thank you for allowing our organization the opportunity to testify as an interested party of HB 120. My name is Paula Mueller, I am Founder-President of Elderly Advocates. Our Mission is to improve the quality of life for the elderly and all those in long-term care.

I submit this testimony on behalf of the many families who advocate for their loved in long-term care. We would like to bring to attention the need for the resident to always have access to their primary support person even in an emergency. This right has been denied to the resident for one year and continues even with a vaccine being given. We feel this is the cause of accelerated growth in the number of compassionate care visits being needed and requested.

Now that we have several vaccines out and most residents receiving the vaccination and believing this the best protection, we can give those in long-term care, we hope to see help given that will help deter the many compassionate care visits now being requested. We do not know how long covid will be around, however, we must allow residents the same rights, privileges, and help where they make their homes, whether assisted living or nursing home. Please see that a nursing home is a home, where they make their home. They should not be denied their right to crucial help due to where they live. We must all learn to live with covid no matter where we make our home.

Primary Support Persons are not visitors. They made a commitment to the resident to support, assist and advocate for them. They oversee their overall wellbeing. They ensure medical and care issues are addressed, they help them make any decisions, they assist with legal and financial issues. Without access many residents have declined and died without this crucial support. Many residents do not understand why this right to help is still being denied a year later and continues to be denied. We believe this is a great influence on the many compassionate care visits that are now needed.

While compassionate care visits are of help, we hope to see the root of the problem causing excessive need of these visits addressed as well. Our organization and families feel less compassionate care visits would be needed if the Primary Support Person were given access as they are most times the compassionate caregiver among the many other things they do for the resident.

It is our hope and that of the families that you will not only provide help in compassionate care situations but do all you can to deter these situations from frequently happening by giving them access to their Primary Support Person as well. This help is of urgent need.

Thank you for the opportunity to give input on what help is desperately needed in addition to the compassionate care visits.

Respectfully,
Paula Mueller
President & Founder
Elderly Advocates