

I'm writing in regards to my support of the House Bill 572. These unprecedented times has brought out true heroes in a time of hardship, despair and the unknown. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Senior Suites at St. Clair Commons staff has been devoted to giving even more precise care to our residents. But with the current economy, rising food prices, staffing issues, and competitive wage rates during these times the hardships have caused more obstacles in providing the proper care for our elderly. If the HB572 were to pass, it would bring more income, which would help bring in more revenue and wages to our caring staff and elderly population. As I read the current legislation for the reimbursement rates it would allow our assisted living to be competitive with the nursing home wages and be able to stay in business. Not only would it help our current staffing issues, but it would also allow us to take more assisted living waiver admissions and help our business prosper. With the current rate of 76.67 per day assisted living Medicaid tier 3 rate, the projected increase rate would mean we would be able to help more Medicaid recipients move into the assisted living. At the rate we currently are at, the assisted living facilities can not break even, only getting the current rate of \$76.67. Some facilities will not even accept the Medicaid waiver residents. If this would be approved, this would not only help the assisted living but would help the elderly be able to live comfortably and happy in their last chapter of their life.

Heather Jewell, CEAL, CDP, BSHCA