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HB 120 Sponsor Testimony

Thank you Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and the members of the Senate Health Committee; I appreciate the opportunity to address all of you about this critical piece of legislation, House Bill 120. House Bill 120 is similar to HB 770 of the previous general assembly, and establishes specific guidelines for allowing essential caregivers into a long term care facility to provide various services for residents, while meeting stringent safety standards.

HB 120 requires the essential caregiver to be at least 18 years old, and must be there to provide compassionate care for the resident. This includes services like simple visitation, providing residents with much needed connection and one-on-one time. Under this legislation, residents will maintain access to their loved ones, and will have stability in their rights to access care under pandemic circumstances.

While present with residents, the caregiver must wear a face covering, additional personal protective equipment, and must be diligent about adhering to social distancing and following facility health and safety guidelines. Before entering the facility, caregivers and visitors alike will be screened for symptoms, tested based on facility standards, and must agree to limit contact with any individual while in the facility. During the pandemic, this is intended to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks occurring within the facility, ensure safe access for loved ones, hospice, home health, or welfare agents.

HB 120 will greatly improve the quality of life for residents, by returning the ability for them to connect with others. With many months of residents being forced to adapt to ever changing visitation requirements, HB 120 will drastically improve the quality of life of our long-term-care residents.

Thank you Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and the members of the Senate Health Committee for hearing this bill. Representative Richardson and I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.