

Greetings, all.

Thank you for allowing me to speak about the importance of putting the Residential State Supplement back in the HB-33 budget. This budget helps Adult Care Facility operators maintain a sustainable business. I'd like to tell you a little about my home. My name is Teresa Kelly and I have owned Manchester Shared Living for the past 22 years. It has been in my family since the mid 80's, over 40 years. Watching my mother and her partner make such a difference in the lives of their clients, I took over their journey in 2001 with that same zeal and energy.

I started this journey with the thought of making a difference in their lives. Now as I look back, I see how they have made such a difference in my life and how they have changed me. Many of my clients have been with me for over 19 years. They become family. I had the privilege of holding the hand of 94-year-old Dorothy, as she took her last breath. I sat with another client while being told she had brain cancer and only weeks to live. I could share countless stories of joy and pain. But why would I let myself hurt, caring for those I don't know? It's a simple answer really. They are the same as you and I. Most of the clients are now seniors and often I am the only person they have left. Since the pandemic, the client's daily living and resources have changed. The clients struggle to get back to their normal lives. A lot of the things they used to do are no longer available; therefore, they are unable to support themselves (activities, community room, groups) and now I supply more to ensure the client can maintain the quality of life to which they are accustomed. I do this while prices increase everywhere, and I need to do so much more with less. So why am I here, what do I need? Simple, to continue to ensure a decent quality of life for my clients. This Residential State Supplement needs to be put back into the HB-33 budget. The group home operators have not received a raise in almost 7 years.

Without this much-needed increase, there is the distinct possibility that I will be forced to close my home and my clients will be forced to relocate. My home won't be the only one that closes, and with NO INCREASE, there will be more group homes closing. The result will be an increase in homelessness, police and court interaction, and sadly abuse of street narcotics. Please ensure that this Residential State Supplement is put back into the HB-33 budget. Thank you for your time.

Lastly, I'd like to read part of a song by a country singer. This is how I truly feel about my clients (my family)

I don't do it for the money, there's bills that I can't pay.
I don't do it for the glory, I just do it anyway.
Providing for our future is my responsibility.
Yeah, I'm really good under pressure, being all that I can be.

I can't call in sick on Mondays, when the weekends been too strong
I work straight through the holidays, and sometimes all night long.
You can bet that I stand ready, when the wolf growls at the door.
I'm solid, hey I'm steady, hey I'm true down to the core.

Beside my brothers and my sisters, I will proudly take a stand.
When liberty's in jeopardy, I will always do what's right.
I'm out here on the front lines, sleep in peace tonight.

Respectfully,
Teresa Kelly