

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Governor Nikki Haley

1205 Pendleton St

Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing to you because of my concern for the elderly in our assisted living and nursing home facilities. I have been in and out of many of these facilities during the past 10 years due to illnesses of family members. What I have noticed with great concern is that they do not have enough health care workers to care for the elderly.

Staffing requirements need to be upgraded as many of these laws were established in 1976. I feel that they need one staff member for each five residents on duty during all shifts in a nursing home facility. To clean up an adult after an accident can take 45 minutes to an hour. I have heard staff tell a patient to go ahead and go to the bathroom in your diaper as this will make it easier to clean up. The reason for this is that they do not always have enough staff to help patients go to the bathroom. Wearing a diaper is humiliating enough much less to ask them to go to the bathroom in the diaper.

The cost of nursing homes have risen tremendously but the minimum number of staff members required to give direct care and basic services for residents is not sufficient. Daycare facilities require one adult on duty for each 5 children, so why do we think our elderly deserve less.

Please review 'DHEC Regulation Number 61-84, Standards for Licensing Community Residential Care Facilities – Section 503 Staffing (I)' to see if this regulation can be revised to provide better care for our elderly.

Thank you for your consideration and help in this matter.

Sincerely,



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Enclosure