



# Theresa's Law

(HB4841)

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Addressing deficiencies in Public Act 218

***Advocating for the “forgotten seniors”***

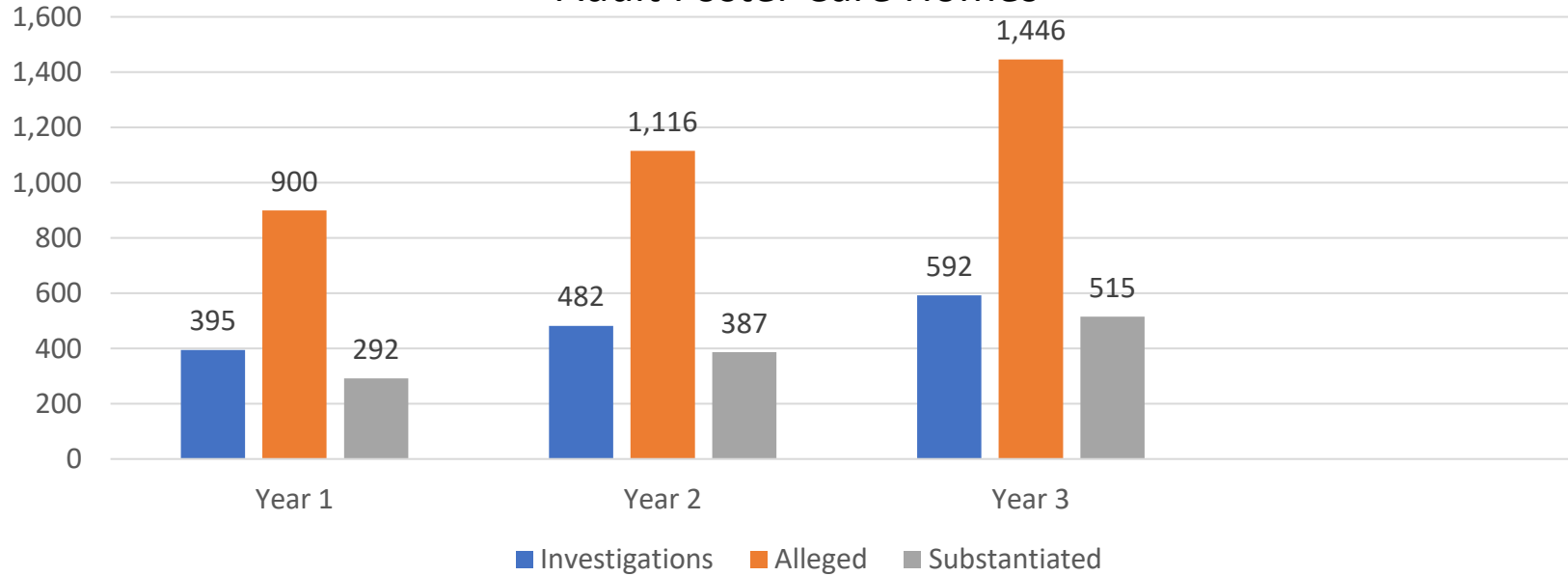
09/19/2023

In loving memory of Theresa Sella Skrabis

# Data shows the status quo, “Reactive response to issues” VS. “Proactive Preventable Solutions” spells DISASTER for Seniors longing for Quality, Compassionate Care.

## Complaints of Abuse, Neglect, Indignity Continue to Rise for Large Adult Foster Care Homes

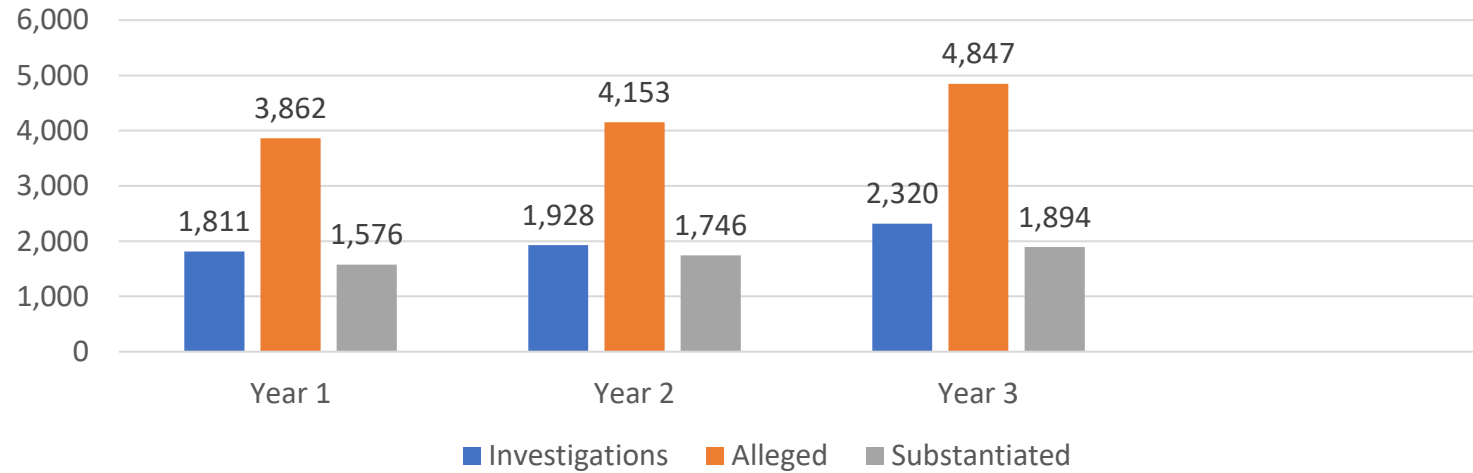
**3,462 AL**  
Complaints  
Past 3 Years



- Complaints: 
- Need for more Investigative Staff: 
- Quality of Resident Care: 


## Complaints of Abuse, Neglect, Indignity Continue to Rise for AS, AM, AL Adult Foster Care Homes

**12,862**  
Complaints  
Past 3 Years



• Complaints: 

Need for more Investigative Staff: 

Quality of Resident Care: 

Data: Year 1 (366 days 10/28/2019 - 10/27/2020) Year 2 ( 366 days 10/28/2020 - 10/28/2021) Year 3 (366 days 10/29/2021 - 10/29/2022)

# Undetected and Under reported

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- Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation under reported in residential care facilities due to:
  - Resident / family fear of retaliation by staff/management
  - Lack of knowledge by resident/family how/where to report
  - Staff reluctance to report out of fear of recrimination
  - Difficulty in substantiating mistreatment
  - Failing memories of residents and or death of residents

"You are dependent on staff members to provide you with basic care, continence, using the bathroom, the toilet, taking a shower," Caspi told USA TODAY. "So you can feel very small, and there's an inherent asymmetrical power... a power imbalance between residents and staff members."

Read the full article here:



## National Center on Elder Abuse:

- 1 in 6 seniors suffer some form of abuse
- 1 in 2 for seniors with cognitive issues
- Only 1 in 24 experiences of elder abuse reported

More than 73,000 older adults in Michigan are victims of elder abuse

# SIR\* Reveal Abuse, Neglect, Indignity and Increased needs of Residents

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- Residents left in feces crested, urine soaked under garments
- Untreated urinary tract infections; staff failure to recognize symptoms and seek timely medical attention
- Non-existent, incomplete, inaccurate assessment plans
- Residents not showered for weeks
- Verbal, emotional, and physical abuse of residents: hit with brooms, electrical cords, punched, etc.
- Sexual assault of residents
- Residents bullied and denied rights
- Residents dropped, injured during improper lift assists
- Medication Errors/Mismanagement with adverse effects, including death:
  - Untimely administration of insulin
  - Staff crushing time released capsules
  - Residents given double dosages ex: morphine “**nonmedical staff confused between ml and mg**” – quote from afc
  - Residents not given medications for weeks

# Theresa's Law – A Proactive Solution

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Bill will support seniors, direct care workers, and the State Ombudsman Program by increasing:

- Accountability (fines for abuse, safety/protection, and residents' rights violations)
- Staff Education and Qualifications – Strengthening the direct care workforce
  - Certified Medication Aide for administering medications
  - Non-certified staff courses (CNA and above exempt)
  - Continuing Education (CE)
  - Yearly competency tests
- Transparency/Disclosure to empower families to make informed decisions, including AFC designation (not assisted living) and governed by PA218

# Modernize Public Act 218

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We must address the systemic issues that result in poor care and are driving direct care workers to leave the profession:

- Lack of accountability
- Low pay and lack of training and education of staff
- Lack of public disclosure and transparency



# About My Mom

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*- A Beautiful Soul*

In loving memory of Theresa Sella Skrabis.

*"Faithful, loving, servant"*

# About My Mom

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In loving memory of Theresa Sella Skrabis.  
*"Faithful, loving, servant"*

# About My Mom

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- Funny, compassionate, loving
- Values: hard worker, integrity, love of family
- Raised 7 children while holding full-time job
- First to care for ailing family – always put others first!
- Fabulous cook! Italian heritage
- Deserved dignity and respect



Mom, 2 weeks before her passing and 1 week before willful act of cruelty.

# Questions?

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*Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Friend.*

**Theresa Sella Skrabis**

3/15/1930 - 4/17/2021



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