September 15, 2023

Dear Madam Chair and committee members,

I am writing to you today on behalf of our elderly that are residents in nursing homes and long-term care facilities in Michigan. I am the Director of Dignity For The Aged, an advocacy group of over 1600 members nationwide and our goal is to bring awareness of the deplorable conditions residents are enduring.   Many of these facilities could be better defined as "Human Factories or Warehouses for the Elderly" rather than long term care facilities.

There are several important reasons why the elderly are suffering abuse, neglect and death while residing in these factories. Staffing, Time, and lack of training for staff. The qualified staff are leaving due to poor leadership and burn out. Due to understaffing, many CNAs are required to care for 20, 30 or more residents which is impossible. There is not enough time in the day for one CNA to provide the proper care necessary and as a result they are not getting the basic care needed. Some are being abused, many are being neglected and still others are dying.

I am writing to you to ask you to consider passing a Theresas Law. I hope your realize how important this is needed. The state of Michigan ranks 45th in the nation with a grade of F. How can this continue?   The CNAs and nursing staff are being set up for failure and are leaving this area of healthcare due to burn out This bill needs to be passed so we can provide our loved ones with the care they deserve and let the citizens of Michigan know that the citizens who fought in our wars, taught our children and served our country in every other capacity have earned the dignity and respect and will not be thrown away because no one cares about them.

Please contact me and let me know what action will be taken to help the elderly. Do your jobs and think about how you would feel if you or someone you know were living in these conditions.

Respectfully,

Sam Kukich
Director, Dignity for the Aged
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Dignity for the Aged