

Roberta Roussel
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Chairman Abney,

My name is Roberta Roussel, and I am the Life Enrichment Director at Golden Crest Nursing Centre. I have held this position at Golden Crest for the past 4 years, but I have worked in the Long-Term Care industry, in this position, for more than 10 years.

Golden Crest is a 152 bed, family-owned facility in North Providence, RI. I am writing in support of Budget Article 10, specifically as it pertains to meaningful changes to the Nursing Home Minimum Staffing Mandate.

While I wholeheartedly support the goal of ensuring high-quality care for our residents, this bill does not achieve that. As a Life Enrichment Director, I spend a considerable amount of time with my residents, talking with them, listening to their problems, helping solve their problems, getting them supplies for independent activities such as word search books, and organizing group activities. I, along with my staff, assist the residents to and from Group Activities, Dining Room, Religious Activities, etc. We provide them with much needed social and sensory stimulation. These functions are critical to the health and wellbeing of the residents we serve; however, the current law does not consider the work my staff and I do as direct care.

I have seen too many Nursing Homes close, displacing an already fragile population, and I hope that this committee can find an equitable solution to this continuing problem, but I do not believe that the current law is it.

Thank you for your time.

Roberta Roussel