

The Honorable House of Representatives
Families, Children, and Seniors Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI. 48909-7514

September 19, 2023

Dear Legislator and Honorable Committee Member:

As constituents, we the undersigned urge you to support House Bill 4841, also known as Theresa's Law, by enacting these long overdue provisions to modernize Public Act 218.

Too many seniors living in adult foster care facilities have suffered abuse, neglect, and indignity with no accountability by facilities or action to make meaningful change that will prevent abuse and ensure this vulnerable, overlooked population is protected and provided with quality care.

Seniors in adult foster care are being ignored as the focus is on nursing home residents and seniors able to age at home – both of which are great and worthy causes, but we must not continue to neglect this forgotten segment of the long-term care population.

You have a proactive solution in front of you to address the systemic issues that are leading to the decline of the overall well-being and health of seniors living in adult foster care and the turnover of direct care workers through Theresa's Law.

The key elements we believe MUST be enacted are:

- Staff education and qualification requirements
 - Medication Technical Aide Certification
 - Non-certified staff courses
 - Continuing Education
 - Yearly competency tests
- Accountability - financial penalties for cited violations of:
 - Abuse, failure to provide safety and protection, and residents' rights violations.
- Transparency/Disclosure to empower families to make informed decisions, such as:
 - Staff training & certifications, Staff-resident ratios
 - Internal complaint procedures & External Contact information
 - Residents' rights
 - Profit or not-for-profit ownership status & ownership contact information
 - Medication administration policy
 - Substantiated violations for past 7 years

Left unchecked, the current system will implode as baby boomers continue to age. Now is the time to take action! We respectfully ask you to support and prioritize Theresa's Law.

Sincerely,

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