

Testimony for: SB 2145

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From:

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I am writing in support of SB2145 as a daughter of an 85 year old long term ND resident who is now living in a LTC facility and a Family Nurse Practitioner. My mom has been a resident of a small long-term care facility for 3 years. Since the CMS and the ND VP committee have instituted restrictions, my mother and many others have suffered under isolation.

The isolation and lack of the ability to touch and assist caring for my mother has caused extreme hardship to her and our family. My mother has been denied the very reasons that she lives for which include hugs and visitation from her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. This has led to decline in her physical and mental capacity.

The LTC where she lives is small, has limited resources but have tried their best to care for the residents, but their hands are tied. No money, no mission. When all the residents in the facility became infected with COVID-19 the staff pulled together and worked extra shifts. Many residents died with very limited family contact.

As a Family Nurse Practitioner, I have first handedly observed the devastation of COVID 19 on residents and how it is magnified by the loss of meaningful contact with family. To many residents there is no reason to live if they cannot have contact with loved ones.

I am in favor of SB 2145 which would allow a designated caregiver to visit for support