

**Testimony Relating to Rights of Health Care Facility Residents**  
**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**January 14, 2025**  
**Senate Bill 2070**

Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Michelle Slaughter, LBSW, and I am the Social Service Director at Marian Manor Health Care Center in Glen Ullin. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 2070.

I am providing written testimony regarding proposed changes to Resident Rights. One of the proposed changes is the right of the resident to choose an attending physician. This proposed change is concerning as Marian Manor is approximately 60 miles from Bismarck. To allow residents to choose an attending physician in Bismarck would place a great strain on our ability to transport residents to see their chosen attending physician in Bismarck and to the other residents who have other specialty medical appointments in Bismarck. Our facility van already makes multiple trips to Bismarck for our residents to see specialists, to add more appointments on to this schedule for residents to see an attending physician of their choice, would cause an even greater strain on our availability of transport drivers.

In closing, while we appreciate the opportunity to work with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman earlier this year on potential updates, the concern I have outlined today was not addressed during those discussions. Furthermore, several proposed changes in this bill overlap with existing regulations for skilled nursing facilities but fail to reflect the practical realities of assisted living or basic care, which are also

impacted by this section of the law. We ask the committee to take these points into consideration and allow time for further collaboration with our providers, our association, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman to ensure that any changes are carefully tailored to meet the diverse needs of all care settings covered under this legislation. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

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