

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and Members of the Public Health Committee:

Re: Bill No 7222, AAC USE OF UNLICENSED ASSISTIVE PERSONNEL IN RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES.

My name is Marjorie Anderson. I am the owner and operator of a residential care home in the Northwest Corner. We provide care to eighteen frail elderly residents.

I support this bill in concept but I have some concerns.

The bill states that the use of some digital medical instruments to perform certain limited health-related tasks would be included in the Regulations of Administration of Medications adopted by the Department of Public Health. This would seem to indicate that only those personnel that are certified to administer medications would be allowed to do these procedures.

Since all of the staff at my residential care home are not certified to administer medications, these very capable caregivers would not be able to perform these procedures as the bill is drafted. I would like to see this wording changed to include all caregivers in the residential care homes since these are not actual medical procedures.

I am also concerned that these procedures could be interpreted to be mandatory. I would want to be sure that performing these procedures would be elective on the part of the individual residential care homes.

I hope that you might take these concerns into consideration.