

My name is Angela Ciccone I am writing to testify on behalf of the elderly patients who live in nursing homes.

I have seen first hand the needs of our seniors from Nursing Homes who come unattended to their dental appointments. I have seen first hand.. the humiliation of a patient, who came to an appointment with a family member, who could not assist him to use the restroom, and then suffer further embarrassment as he soiled himself and had to sit unclean until the nursing facility came with a change of clothes. That only happened after several calls insisting the nursing home make an aid available.

I have seen first hand, a very sweet female patient, come to a dental appointment, unable to comprehend where she was, or why she was there. She did not recognize any of the office staff and became very upset.

I have seen first hand when a patient could not stand to get x-rays, and being our office is not trained to transfer, the patient could not get the treatment required and had to be sent back only to reschedule another visit, twice the time, twice the effort, transportation costs to the state. . Patients need to be able to transfer from wheelchairs to dental chairs for most procedures, and that cannot happen if patients come without an experience trained aid to help them.

Giving proper treatment to our patients is very difficult when we do not have the support from the nursing homes. It must start there. Our office is more than able and willing to treat patients who have needs; we have made it possible to have wheelchair accessibility, and operatories that accommodate their wheelchairs. Making sure our elderly patients overall needs are met should be a top priority.

Thank you for making this happen.

Sincerely Angela Ciccone