



United Community & Family Services

A Legacy of Caring since 1877

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Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and Members of the Human Services Committee

Re: SB 283 (Raised), AN ACT CONCERNING AUDITS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

As President and CEO of United Community and Family Services, Inc. (UCFS), I would like to express my support for SB 283.

We fully support the right of our funders to audit our agency however we also expect that audits will be conducted fairly and consistently. The language in SB 283 clearly outlines the amount of notice the agency to be audited will be given, fairness in how extrapolations are applied, expectations regarding how findings are reported and an appeal process. All this is good business. State agencies and private agencies are partners in service provision. In order to meet expectations, both parties need to agree to, and fully understand, what the expectations are. We need to know what the rules are in order to follow them. Clearly outlining expectations between partners ensures that solid relationships are maintained, which in the end benefits the clients we serve.

Charles Seeman
President/CEO

March 2, 2010



Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and Members of the Human Services Committee

Opposition to HB 5232, AAC Transfer or Discharge of Residential Care Home Patients

My name is Dr. Theodore H. Martland and I am the General Partner of the Elton HFA Limited Partnership which is the owner of the Elton Residential Care Home.

I am opposed to HB 5232 because it will lengthen the time it takes to transfer a resident to a more appropriate care facility as well as subject residential care homes to excessive costs in these difficult fiscal times. Our state rate has been frozen for two years and is now below actual costs. Many homes are struggling to survive.

The Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities wants any “advocate” to represent a resident. However, the administrator of the home must “advocate” for the stability of the home and the other residents.

Most Residential Care Homes (RCH) have a population of about 20 residents, thus each resident represents 5% of their total income. If the issue is non-payment, the expanded time (e.g., 15 days to 15 business days) could easily add up to 83 days. And let’s remember, any RCH wants to keep its residents as long as possible – residents are only subject to involuntary discharge after all efforts to work with the resident have failed.

In addition, will the “advocates” be well trained and knowledgeable? Some homes have all state-funded residents with mental disabilities. A person’s actions can disrupt the lives of other fragile residents. The “rights” of the home and other residents also have to be taken into consideration.

At the Elton we have had two cases during the last 14 years; one where a man was hitting other residents with his cane which took 90 days or so to relocate him and another in a wheelchair. The latter case we lost, so now we have a resident in a wheelchair possibly causing us to be in violation of the fire code. Our residents must be ambulatory.

In these tough economic times, I ask you to not change the process (infrequently used) currently in place. “Advocacy groups” are not the only protectors of rights – a home must advocate also for the entire well-being of the home and all its residents. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Theodore H. Martland