

## Testimony in favor of the Griswold Home Care Proposed Bill

In February 2011 my 94 year old mother in law fell in her home and broke her hip and shoulder. After surgery and a stay in the hospital and rehab she was told that she could go home but that it was no longer safe for her to be at home alone.

Her family, sons daughter, daughter in laws and son in law gathered to discuss their options, having promised Mom that they would do their best to keep her in her home for as long as possible.

I took on the task of finding high quality affordable 24/7 live in care for Alice, care that would meet her daily needs but be affordable for someone on a fixed income.

I did much research interviewing several local home care agencies both registry and full payroll models. I inquired about the type of services provided, the quality of their caregivers and the cost of services. I requested references that I could contact to confirm the information I was being provided.

I was impressed with Griswold Special Care's 17 step screening process of their caregivers, in depth behavior based interviews, skill and personality assessments, and background screenings. All of that played into our decision to use Griswold as well as the cost of care through the agency.

Griswold's live in rate of \$159.00 a day was the most affordable rate I found in doing my research other agencies quoted me daily rates of \$230.00 and up. Based on care being provide 365 days at a rate of \$159.00 a day the cost of care is \$58,035 per year. Using a full payroll agency at the rate of \$230 per day for 365 days the cost of care for a year would be \$83, 950, that is a cost difference of \$25,915 per year. That is a tremendous savings a savings made possible because Griswold is a registry.

To impose regulations on a registry to the point of elimination would drive the cost of home care up to rates that would no longer be affordable for people on a fixed income, people like Alice, would no longer be able to remain in their home.

I give this testimony in support of the Griswold Home Care <sup>Amendment</sup> bill proposed by Leslie Mills and Cathy Howard it is a good compromise with the Dept. of Labor. It addresses the issues of workman's compensation insurance and unemployment insurance being covered for care givers while it continues to help keep the cost of care low and the caregiver wages high. In keeping a registry model intact the elderly in our state will be able to continue to receive high quality home care at rates that are affordable for those on a fixed income like my mother in law Alice.

The elimination of the registry model would force the elderly into Medicaid much sooner and could be reason for them to hire private caregivers of a lesser quality that have not been properly screened for employment.