

**March 3, 2016**  
**Testimony on SB 278**

To the Human Services Committee;

As a social worker who has specialized in working with older adults and their families for over 20 years I feel it is imperative for ratios of social workers to nursing home residents be drastically reduced. The case load and responsibility continues to evolve and become more cumbersome yet the ratio has not adjusted resulting in decline in support social workers can offer the resident. Social workers are now faced with ascend tracking, MDS completion, insurance updates, progress writing quarterly on every resident, room change, admission adjustment and behavioral challenge. It is critical that social workers are available for case management, discharge planning, behavioral support, assessment and family intervention. The current case load is unreasonable and ineffective to provide the necessary state regulations. It is in the best interest of the resident, family and state to decrease the case load. A reasonable ratio would be 1:60 for long term residents and 1:20 for short term rehabilitation.

Thank you for considering this legislative change to support the social work profession.

Sincerely,

Carrie Effinger, LMSW