

Wrice, Monique

From: mbdmsw@cox.net
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2016 11:43 AM
To: HSTestimony
Subject: Bill 278

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to ask you to vote YES on Bill 278, concerning the ratio of social workers to patients in nursing homes. The most basic component of providing social work services to a client is to develop a trusting and respectful relationship with them. With 1 social worker per 120 beds, this is impossible.

Nursing home patients and often their families have complex issues that go beyond a social worker dropping in once in a while to check their status. The initial adjustment to a nursing home is traumatic for the patient and families. Patients feel a profound sense of loss and trauma regarding their living situation and lifestyle. Losing one's independence and adapting to institutionalized care. Families often feel that same sense of trauma and loss coupled with guilt. As an LCSW I know the importance of assisting individuals and families with these issues. A social worker who works in a home with 120 beds does not have enough time to do this.

I was in 3 different nursing homes for a total of 16 months following an accident. I would describe the social work services that I received as sub standard.

In addition to staffing levels it is also important to develop guidelines regarding the level of education one must have to be a nursing home social worker. Of the 3 homes that I was in, only one home had a social worker with a BSW degree (undergraduate degree in social work). None of the homes had a Master's level social worker or licensed social worker on staff. I feel that just as minimum requirements and licensure are set for RN's, LPN's and CNA's in nursing home social workers should be held to the same criteria.

Please ensure that nursing home residents in CT receive high quality social work services in nursing homes by voting YES in Bill 278.

Respectfully,

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