

February 14, 2020

Chair Ann Pugh, House Human Services Committee and Kimberly Jessup,

I have been my grandparents primary caregiver since 2009, eleven years. Gram age 83, now 94 and Gramps 77, now 88. During the infant stages of my caregiving career, I did not recognize my role as “caregiver” nor did I understand the aging process or the demands of being a caregiver. I was helping out my grandparents as they did me over the course of years, it seemed natural to be there for them.

The services at home that were available and used along our journey were: Central Vermont Council on the Aging, Central Vermont Home Health, Central Vermont Meals On Wheels. These services proved to be **super important, easily attained and well executed**. We had positive experiences with each agency. These agencies and services are critical to our aging populations ability to stay in their homes.

It has been three and a half years since my grandparents have resided in a long term care facility. This has been a difficult transition for them, our family and myself. Although the facility is the primary caregiver now, I feel it necessary to visit my grandparents daily and stay involved in their care and well being.

There has been many challenges and unknowns during my grandparents stay at LTC facility, much of which revolve around lack of help, primarily quality, trained, professional individuals on the floor taking direct care of the residents. The turnover is high and direct oversight is lacking due to the ongoing gap of quality employees. The employees who are dedicated and committed to quality care, continuously get stretched beyond their limits due to these deficits which comes with an inevitable negative trickle down effect to the residents, employee’s and their families. Many residents in these facilities have no one advocating for them which is super concerning given the above mentioned concerns and gaps.

Education and Recruitment of Quality Health Care Professionals is Critical to Services, Support and Protections of our Aging Population.

I hope that this information you will find helpful. I am willing to expand on any of our experiences if it is desired. Thank You for this opportunity to share my perspective.

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