

Dear Chair Lyons and Members of the Health & Welfare Committee,

Thank you for the time and consideration you are giving to updating our Adult Protective Services statute (H.171.) This is vitally important to vulnerable adults, including those with dementia.

I have a concern about your proposed amendment (Draft No. 2.2) and the addition of the phrase "the specific report of" abuse. I fear adding this stipulation will result in many vulnerable adults having their report of abuse dismissed. As you know, abuse happens in many ways and is often not linked to the disability, but to the situation and power dynamic that arise when one person requires the care of another. For those with dementia, a cognitive impairment, physical abuse could easily occur even when their body is strong.

I ask you to remove the sixth section of your amendment in its entirety (P.2 lines 14-16.)

Thank you for your consideration. Meg

Megan Polyte (*she/her*)  
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