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Dayton Parkview Adult Residence

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Joint Sub-Committee on Education & Human Resources

Dear Committee Members,

In 1985, my father built Lyon County's first modern Assisted Living Facility, Dayton Parkview Adult Residence. He never turned anyone away, and our capacity grew along with Lyon County. We are now at 54 beds. Even though dad is no longer with us, we have been a family-run operation since we opened. We specialize in serving both private pay and welfare residents, and we now also serve residents who are on the Medicaid Group Care Waiver Program. This program indentifies elderly persons currently residing in a medical setting, such as a nursing home or rehabilitative venue who could live in a less costly, more appropriate setting of an assisted living facility. We believe strongly in this program because it offers ambulatory, medically stable seniors the opportunity to move into a less restrictive, more independent assisted living setting, while saving the state a significant amount of money.

However, the last few years Dayton Parkview has lost money, because while our proportion of Group Waiver clients has grown, the reimbursement rate has not. We continue to stay open because we believe in the quality of life we help provide for our elderly residents. Therefore, we ask you to support the Group Care Waiver Program enhancement, which is section BA3243 E-457 in the Medicaid Budget. We take pride in serving these residents, but it costs us much more in staff time than we are being reimbursed for.

We currently receive just \$9.09 per day for the extra care these people require...this is on top of the SSI rate of \$26.97 per day for their room and board costs, for a total of just

\$1,081.80 per month! This \$9.09 rate is the original rate dating back from 1992, 11 years ago! There hasn't been a raise since then! Most facilities can't afford to care for a client on just \$1,081 per month, as the going rate for a private pay client in assisted living is around \$1,800 to \$2,000/mo. As a result, many elderly who would benefit from the program (thus saving the state money too) aren't being served because the reimbursement rate for the facility operator is just too low. Many other assisted living facilities in Nevada would consider caring for these residents except for the low reimbursement rates.

I am also the Legislative Chair for CARE, representing 60 assisted living facilities all over Nevada with a combined total of 1400+ beds. CARE stands for "Coalition of Assisted Residential Environments", and we very strongly support an increase in the reimbursement rate and an expansion of service levels so more elderly can be served. It's a win-win for the state and the elderly! Assisted Living facilities in this state provide a wide range of living choices for people participating in the Group Waiver Program. From small 6 bed care homes to larger facilities, from regular elderly settings to those of us caring for residents with Alzheimers disease, assisted living represents a wide variety of living environments and choices for our seniors.

Building on this successful track record in Nevada's 350 assisted living facilities, we believe it appropriate and timely that the Group Waiver Program enhancement now proposes a three tier arrangement, beginning at \$20 per day for the level 1 clients, and adding two more levels with corresponding reimbursement rates. This arrangement more effectively serves the diverse needs of this population in an assisted living setting.

Please understand that while this is a small part of the Medicaid budget, Nevada is getting alot of "bang for it's buck", and this is why the expansion of Group Care Waiver Services deserves your wholehearted support.


Larry Fry

Director, Dayton Parkview Adult Residence