

My name is Mary Costa. I am writing in support of HB 5773. I care for my mother at home and have been for 14½ years. We've been participating in the RItE @ Home Shared Living program for about 12 of the 14½ years. It is a blessing to be caring for the woman that gave birth to me, raised me, kept me out of dangers way. It is now my time to care for her. She has had a stroke in 2010 which has left her right side weak and cannot walk well. She also had a heart attack in 2014. She is currently on dialysis. Has been for 8 years. I take care of my mothers' finances, make sure she has all of her medications, take her to all of her medical appointments, etc, as she cannot .

I know I am not the only one that cares for a loved one at home, taking care of all caregiver responsibilities and duties and dont have anyone to turn to for help. I

also know I am not the only one that believes this proposal change can change alot of lives, permanently and negatively. I say permanently and negatively because who will my mom turn to ? And all the other caregivers, what will the caretakers do? We (as caregivers), we obviously care for our loved ones because we have sacrificed our lives in order for our Mom, sister, uncle, grandparent, dad to survive and just keep going. Keep living peacefully. This change will weigh heavy on alot of hearts. Because of loved ones, are our hearts.

Please, take into consideration that if you change this, it will impact alot of lives. We have to look out for our disabled loved ones. This bill was made for a reason in the first place . Change is good. For the better. But not this change.
Thankbyou for your time.