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**To:** [Legislation](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Zurier, Samuel](#); [Rep. Blazejewski, Christopher R.](#)  
**Subject:** SB 2571, SB 2875, SB 2566, SB3025  
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Dear Chair Murry and Honorable Committee Members,

I write in strong support of **SB 2571, 2875, 2366 and SB3025**

As you know:

**SB 2571** Increases frequency of inspections of assisted living facilities with Special Dementia Care Units to annual, from biennial. (Inspections of all assisted living residences were annual until 2017)

Having spent over seven years as a primary caregiver to a resident with vascular dementia, I have witnessed first hand the demands placed on staff to care for people with a range of needs and challenges. This the staff does as well as it can, but reducing oversight gives less scrupulous facilities a pass in not meeting standards if no one is paying attention. The system is such that under staffing and under funding only create difficulties that could be prevented easily with the guardrails that annual inspections would establish. As well, n increase in safety and quality violations in assisted living residences in recent years bears this out.

**SB 2875** Enables the formation of resident and family councils in assisted living residences - something that could work well to address this issues named above in **2571**

As a well-known and familiar family member at the facility where my person was (until he passed last month), I had opportunities to share feedback and suggestions with staff - but largely because I was there almost daily, helped with my person's care when I could. Many families lack the time or resources to do this - inviting families to have more active roles in their loved ones' care, and in supporting those whose work it is to provide that care, can only serve to strengthen and improve provision. Family councils can work in support of (and not in adversarial positions with) professional staff in ways that can only benefit patients and residents.

**SB 2566** Limits a facility's ability to charge rent and fees following a resident's death for a maximum of 7 days or until removal of the personal property from the room. (Currently most facilities charge for 30 days after a resident's death.

I have written testimony about this before - my person passed before midnight on a Friday; we had to clear the room by the end of the day on Sunday. While our facility may have granted an extra day or two, without systemic support, they lose money and so are pressured to move people's belongings out very quickly. As well, there are circumstances under which family or caregivers may not be able to move as quickly in removing belongings due to any number of circumstances.

Finally:

**SB3025** (Nursing home ownership transparency and equity extraction limits)

When public funds meant for resident care are diverted through opaque practices to enrich facility owners, one can hardly be surprised that poor care, neglect, and abuse will follow.

This bill would curb these practices.

In sum, these four bills are part of a long-needed series of reforms and rebuilding of nursing home care in the state. None of us are getting younger and none of us get out of here alive. While we are here, we can do so much better in re-imagining and delivering care and compassion to the elderly, infirm and languishing residents and patients who deserve respect, care and compassion. Systemic change is a marathon, not a sprint. These bills are first and critical steps in that process.

Respectfully submitted.

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