

November 1, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is Sherry Bagnato and I am writing on behalf of myself and my brothers. Our mother, Victoria Taylor was a resident of Ina Grafton Gage Home. She died from Covid in May 2020. It is with anger that we are writing this letter. As a small long term care home, we feel that the outbreak of the virus that began on the second floor, could have been prevented.

My mother was on the first floor and it was alarming how quickly residents contracted the virus, and how unprepared the home was to handle it. Patients were not isolated immediately, and continued to have meals with other residents, despite the speed in which the virus spread.

Residents in the home are a vulnerable population. COMPLETE lockdown should have happened swiftly, and with no exceptions. This is not a population that can afford to wait, and common sense states that protocol was not followed. We had no idea that there had been so many deaths. The home was calling daily but stopped tallying the number of deaths occurred. It wasn't until we read it in the paper about the sheer number of deaths, did we understand how out of control the virus had become. Bringing in hospital staff to help, speaks for itself. The home was completely unprepared to handle a pandemic. It was shocking, to say the least.

The irony of this circumstance is that Victoria Taylor owned a nursing home in Sprindale, outside of Peterborough for a time. Great care was given along with incredibly high standards regarding the level of safety that was met in her home. It saddens me greatly to think she had to die in this manner. Facetimeing her while she was gasping for breath was emotionally heart wrenching.

Victoria was a bright, artistic, beautiful woman who is missed dearly along with the other residents who have passed by this virus. It is nothing short of shameful that inspectors didn't enter the home to ensure protocol was being followed. If this Bill is passed, it sets a precedent that being unprepared for a crisis is alright. Would you tell that to the firemen, or the police or emergency hospital staff? There will continue to be a lack of vigilance, despite a predicted increase in outbreaks such as covid. Shame on you, if you allow this Bill to go through.

Sincerely  
Sherry Bagnato