

Taylor, Laura

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: October 30, 2020 7:00 PM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 24106

Submitted on Fri, 10/30/2020 - 17:46

Application ID: 24106

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020**

Choose a topic

Do you know the bill title or business (e.g., pre-budget consultations) you'd like to speak or submit material about?

Yes

Choose an application

Which application would you like to submit?

Submit material only

Add your information

Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

Mr Greg McVeigh

Contact phone number

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Paste submission

Good day,

I am the son of Joseph and Joan McVeigh who were residents at Seven Oaks Long Term Care in Scarborough. Both of my parents are deceased, they died nine days apart from COVID-19.

My parents both served their communities with honour. My Father as a Toronto Police Detective and my

Mother as a program director with Peel Lunch and After School program.

They both suffered from dementia, and required full time care. Their quality of life although diminished was still good, they enjoyed each other's company, visits from family and interacting with staff.

From the onset of the pandemic it was clear my parents and others in LTC facilities were victims of discrimination based on age and disability. This was perpetuated institutionally and by the various levels of government that oversee Long Term Care facilities.

The decisions made by Seven Oaks, lacked common sense and responsibility. They contradicted the decisions made to protect the citizens of Ontario, and were deliberate in nature and intent. Seven Oaks and the City of Toronto had adequate time to prepare for the deaths that occurred, as 6 weeks earlier it was demonstrated in Europe that geriatric citizens in long term care were the most vulnerable, and at the highest risk.

Despite my pleas, my Mother was fed in a dining hall while there was a COVID-19 outbreak, contradictory to the pandemic plan of Canada for institutional settings. At this time restaurants were not open and society was on a "lockdown". As a result of precautions not being taken my mother contracted COVID-19. After contracting the virus she received inadequate care, and likely suffered dehydration. I was not given the opportunity to speak, visit or have a FaceTime call with my Mother to check on her well being. My Mother should have been hospitalized as along with COVID-19, she was not eating or drinking properly. My Mother passed away, she did not receive a proper funeral due to COVID restrictions.

My Father tested negative after my Mother's death, he died 9 days after my Mother. He tested positive in his postmortem COVID test. My father was bed ridden, the disease could only have been brought to him by staff as a result of poor infection control.

Our family lost them both within nine days, both deaths preventable. The hurt is immeasurable. Taking away rights from their estate only amplifies this pain. Throughout this Pandemic hard working people like my parents due to their age and disability were treated like 2nd class citizens. They were an afterthought, expendable, not as important to keep alive. Now through political expediency, if it wasn't bad enough that their rights were diminished while alive, the Province wants to remove rights away from their estates. Should the Province move ahead with Bill 218 it will leave a blemish on the politicians who voted in favour of this bill. This decision and the treatment of our elderly in Long Term Care will never be forgotten. Like other tragic legacies in this Province, this will be remembered by generations to come.