Taylor, Laura

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 3, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 24731

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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?
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Which application would you like to submit?
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Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?
I am submitting material as an individual

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Paste submission
November 3, 2020
I am the daughter of Barbara Elliott, deceased resident of the Village of Erin Meadows. My mother passed away in July, not from Covid, but following an incident that occurred while in the exclusive care of this facility. My mother moved to Village of Erin Meadows in May of 2019 with the promise of expert and attentive care. The Covid pandemic brought inadequacies of care by this facility to the forefront, but this establishment was fraught with problems long before Covid. Resident neglect, behaviour management issues, lack of resident

hygiene, lack of adequate infection control protocols, staff without appropriate training, food service workers and housekeepers without proper understanding of sanitation protocols, grossly insufficient numbers of staff and staff not familiar with resident care plans.
Between mid March and April, following initial Ministry lockdowns and suspension of caregivers such as myself to the facility, my mother experienced despicable neglect. Broken teeth, an infection requiring antibiotics, clothing sent home soiled with feces and most disturbingly, was the critical lack of supervision that resulted in my mother being sexually assaulted - an incident that required police intervention. This facility failed to exercise duty of care in protecting my mother and keeping her safe. The last and final act of negligence was a fatal incident that resulted in my mother suffering a broken pelvis and broken wrist. She spent the remaining 8 weeks of her life in the hospital, alone and in isolation, since I was not permitted to go there until the final 2 days before her death. I can't help thinking about the feelings of hopelessness and abandonment she must have experienced. These feelings will haunt me for the rest of my life. The loss of my mother has been a tremendous one to bear.
My mother was an intelligent, loving caring person who dedicated her life's work to helping vulnerable children (PTSB, Special Services, Psychology). She was a good friend, a loving mother, grandmother and outstanding citizen having made many valuable and meaningful contributions to society. What happened to my mother in the final 8 weeks of her life is deplorable. There should never be another person on the face of this earth that should have to suffer the atrocities of neglect of duty of care that my mother did. It is appalling to think that the government would be even consider developing any such legislation that would protect institutions such as this and absolve them from accountability for what are nothing short of crimes against humanity. This facility had a duty of care to my mother and they failed to exercise it. There are no excuses. There is no try your best. These facilities are in the very lucrative business of providing health care to individuals, and at a great cost to individuals, I might add. These are our most vulnerable of society, residents who can't speak for themselves, who can't act for themselves. This facility exercised a purposeful disregard for resident safety, which goes against any principal definition of health preservation and promotion.

Inexperienced, untrained, uneducated staff were vectors for transmission of Coronavirus into these facilities where innocent people laid in wait to face neglect and lonely deaths. It is astonishing to me that the government is rescinding on promises to make these facilities accountable for their actions. It is not Ok to inhibit the ability of citizens to pursue justice in this Country. Taking away our rights as citizens accomplishes nothing more than to give carte blanche to institutions to continue doing the wrongful acts they are doing. What we need to do is focus on the promotion of positive change. If you want to focus on protection, then implement policies and legislation that protects our elderly, not bureaucrats. Define care perimeters to ensure adequacy of provisions of care and stiff penalties for breaches. My mother's life was meaningful. Please don't let her death or anyone else's be in vain.
Negligence Points
The facility states they were following Ministry mandates, which is nothing short of a lie. If they were following mandates, then my mother would not have been among the residents who were gathered together by staff in a small room when this fatal incident happened to her, while residents were supposed to be distancing from one another. This is nothing short of a blatant disregard for resident safety. Residents continued to gather and eat in the congregate dining room even after management informed family members by memo to the contrary, that residents would be taking meals in the hallways of their individual rooms so as to allow for separation of residents. They did not do it because they did not have the staff necessary to orchestrate or supervise this. Residents on my mothers floor were still being permitted visitors from other floors in the facility, which posed a grave risk of harm to residents like my mother. Since residents such as my mother were not permitted to leave the facility, the vectors for the transmission of illness into the facility were staff members who had absolutely no proficient knowledge of infection control, going from resident to resident and out to lunch and back donning the same PPE. Ratios of staff members to residents was entirely underfunded. On my mothers floor, there were only ever 2 PSW's for 30 very high needs residents. 1 med certified PSW ran around with a cart administering resident medication. When Covid hit the home, many staff left their posts, opting to

work elsewhere. The procurement of staff trained in effective management of high needs residents consistently left residents without attentive care or supervision and yet the facility kept taking in more residents, unable to deal with the ones they already had.

Kathy Skakun