

SUBMISSION TO PUBLIC HEARING FOR BILL 175

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO HOME & COMMUNITY CARE ACT

June 15, 2020

Dear MPPs.

I am distressed that this important bill is being pushed through the Legislature. We have just seen the holes in our Long Term Care with the Covid-19 pandemic. This bill makes the entire system **less accountable, not more.**

I worked for a Home Care company out of Ottawa a few years ago. I was a cleaner in homes. **My shifts were only 1 hour long. I was not paid for transportation time or expenses. Most of the clients were given 2-3 cleaning sessions after major surgery.** So a client that was bed ridden, and could not lift anything for 6-8 weeks was given 2 - 1 hour sessions, **then she would have 4 - 6 weeks to try to recover with no help.** I found this inhuman. In the end, I was not given enough shifts to sustain the work (Or even cover the travel costs - This is a rural area).

This lack of job security, **caused by the profit-driven motive of not scheduling enough task time to properly assist clients, and failure to pay workers for necessary transportation and prep time** was true all the way through the system. The PSW's were often going from home to home for 10 - 15 minute appointments. They were only paid for hours on-site, not commuting between appointments, or washing hands, etc. between clients. If you somehow could work 40 hours in this system, then you had some good benefits. Good luck in those conditions, being able to work even 20 hours. **62% of Personal Support Workers are in part-time jobs, piecing together agency work and long term care home shifts to make a living.**

The for-profit agency I worked for could not even keep office staff. When I went back to get my work records, there were none of the contacts that I worked under only 6 months prior. Is this the kind of home care situation we want to increase?

PLEASE - take some sober second thought. Go back to committee, let's put the money and time into creating a system that works. Our seniors are worth it.

Yours in health,

Molly Forsythe

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