

Name

Ellen Caplan

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re: Bill 175 Connecting People to Home Care

It is unconscionable - note the definition of this term includes unethical, immoral, unprincipled, wrong, unscrupulous, underhanded, and dishonest - all of which the provincial government is guilty of should you, at this time, legislate the dismantling of the Ontario Provincial Home Care program and replace it with privatized home care.

Do we not have enough evidence in the horrific number of deaths occurring in long term care facilities in Ontario caused by Covid 19 that there is a conflict of interest to allow health care to be offered, without public governance, by for-profit individuals and organizations? We can now sadly see what happens when greedy for-profit organizations scrimp on costs, including staff salaries, training, supervision, PPE, food, programming, etc., to better their profit margins, at the expense of the vulnerable patients they are intended to serve. Coupled with the lack of government oversight, this has been a disaster, in the largest sense.

While speaking publicly of the respect for and obligation that we have to our senior citizens, Premier Doug Ford and the PC government are moving ahead to enable further privatization of home care, and the dismantling of non-profit managed home care, at the same time removing existing provisions of public control and accountability. And this is being done at a time when the majority of the public are unaware of what is going on, distracted by life and death matters.

We would never permit the education of our children and young people in schools and universities, funded by the government, to be managed by for-profit organizations. Likewise, there would be a clear conflict of interest if we turned over the running of our hospitals to for-profit organizations. Publicly run medicare is a keystone to our health care system.

The PC government has promised the citizens of Ontario that there will be a thorough examination of the role of for-profit enterprises in providing long term care, which is an essential part of the continuum of care. The same review is owed to home care, a key component of our health care system, so vital to keeping our elderly and health compromised individuals living independently in the community.

The health of our most vulnerable should not be in the hands of those whose main purpose is to make a profit.

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Ontario taxpayer

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