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**Submission to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly regarding
Bill 37, Providing More Care, Protecting Seniors and Building More Beds Act,
2021**

Company Background: SE Health is a national not-for-profit social enterprise that provides health care services across many areas of the health system, including home and community care, long-term care, acute care and primary care.

Background

- More than 90% of Ontario's seniors prefer to stay home for as long as possible¹, with 75% preferring home health care for themselves and their loved ones over long-term care (LTC) facilities².
- Many community dwelling seniors enter LTC prematurely due to inadequate type or frequency of services available in the home³.
- Research suggests that 20-30% of the current ~70,000 LTC residents and ~40,000 on the wait list could stay at home with better home care supports⁴.
- Approximately 80% of Ontarians assessed for long-stay home care services (162,000 people) can be considered at risk of residential LTC admission based on known medical, psychosocial, cognitive and functional predictors⁵.

Major Issues

- COVID-19 has shifted older adults' views on aging in their own homes rather than in retirement or long-term care homes; 96% of Canadians over 65 years old say that they will do everything they can to avoid moving into an LTC home⁶.
- All areas of the health system are experiencing critical staff shortages. Uneven policies and staffing incentives within the LTC sector often create unintended consequences that undermine the delivery of home care services, further funneling people into overcrowded hospitals and LTC facilities.
- Continuing to institutionalize our fast-growing aging population in upgraded and new LTC facilities is unaffordable, beyond the projected financial capacity of federal/provincial and territorial governments⁷.
- The market lacks sufficient supply of appropriate and affordable housing for low and middle income seniors who require low to moderate levels of support to live independently. Almost 20% of Canadian seniors spend >30% of their before tax income on housing, this increases to almost 40% for seniors who live alone⁸.

Recommendations

- Approach LTC as a system of care for older Ontarians, not a collection of facilities, and rebalance health spending to home and community care so that LTC beds are there for those who need them⁵.

¹ Campaign Research Inc. study of 1003 Ontario residents aged 55+, on behalf of Home Care Ontario (July 2020) [LINK](#)

² Bring Health Home factsheet (2020) [LINK](#)

³ Depression and loneliness are predictors of early LTC admission. de Almeida Mello, J., Cès, S., Vanneste, D. et al. Comparing the case-mix of frail older people at home and of those being admitted into residential care: a longitudinal study. BMC Geriatr; 20, 105 (2020)

⁴ Why some patients who do not need hospitalization cannot leave: A case study of reviews in 6 Canadian hospitals Bender, D; Holyoke, P (2018) in Healthcare Management Forum [LINK](#)

⁵ Giosa JL, Saari M, Holyoke P, Hirdes JP, Heckman G. Long-term life care at home: the future of aging-focused care in Canada (2021) [LINK](#)

⁶ National Institute on Aging, Pandemic Perspectives on Long Term Care, March 2021 [LINK](#)

⁷ Long-Term Care's Financial Sustainability D Drummond and D Sinclair (2021) in HealthcarePapers [LINK](#)

⁸ Report on Housing Needs of Seniors prepared for the Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Forum of Ministers Responsible for Seniors, June 2019. [LINK](#)

- Adopt a system-wide view and approach to health human resources planning so that all sectors can attract and retain the staff they need.
- Ensure equity in care and funding by extending the daily average 4-hours of care target to all older adults with high, complex-care needs, whether they are residing in a LTC facility or in their own home.
- Include a ‘money follows the person’ provision allowing the \$201 per diem funding for institutional beds to be portable, so that residents who wish to leave LTC facilities can apply this funding to community residential living.
- Expand the supply and range of housing options for low- and middle-income seniors to further support aging in place including innovative models.

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