

HB 0806

Support with Amendments

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Caregivers for Compromise - because isolation kills too!

My name is Elmer M. Dengler, my mother has been in nursing homes for approximately 10 years and through that time I have been her primary caregiver and have seen what nursing homes can and cannot do. The last 2 years prior to the pandemic I provided 4-5 visits a week staying about 3 hours each time. During that time I provided her with music of her life through the Alive Inside program which I brought into the nursing home. Having the music playing in a headset enabled a reduction in pain medicine and a significant easing of her anxiety and fear. Usually after the headset had been playing for a half hour she was able to converse with me and I was able to hand feed her. Because the music of their lives has been shown to help the brain reconnect with the outside world I was able to find out what her needs and concerns really were and was able to answer her questions as family and solve her problems. Because of my time there and the process I was using her anxiety through the dementia process was greatly eased with a minimum of time and stress to the staff of her facility.

During the pandemic her anxiety has been as high as I have ever seen it, requiring more staff time and increased stress on the staff to meet her most basic needs. Her dementia has also accelerated it's progression and without the relationship time I provided she does not respond to external communication efforts.

This bill will help greatly with resident stress in the nursing homes and similar facilities and should reduce the levels of medication and staff's difficulties in dealing with the many problem situations they face which has greatly increased during the pandemic.

I ask that facilities also be encouraged to develop the Alive Inside program and provide seed money to initiate this process in the many places this process can be used which will significantly improve seniors quality of life and improve the situations in these facilities in many ways.

Please click on this link to see what the Alive Inside process is all about.

<https://youtu.be/laB5Egej0TQ>