

Chair Pendergrass and Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk,

My name is Tina Hurley, and I am the daughter of Brenda Middleton, who is a patient at Peak Health Care in Denton, MD. After I placed my mother at Peak Health Care, I learned that it was one of 20 properties in our region purchased by Portopiccolo, a New Jersey based investment firm.

I am here today to tell the same story that I told to the Washington Post, in a December article they did on this company, and how they buy facilities to try to make money off people like my mother. I can share that my mother was brushed off or ignored at Peak multiple times. My mother has a history of DVTs and factor 5, and at one point, her roommate there fell onto my mother's leg which created a huge hematoma. I talked to her doctor several times about sending her to the hospital, but her doctor dismissed the request. Over a period of time, my mother ended up with cellulitis, major infection, and the doctor still prolonged getting her to the hospital. After a painful six weeks, she had to get a pick line put into her upper chest to get antibiotics into her blood stream. To this day, her leg is still swollen with lots of fluid and is a discolored a deep purple.

About three weeks ago, my mother's roommate tested positive for COVID-19, and in response was told to just stay there in the same room, but put on a mask. Staff came into the room three or four days later and finally moved my mother into a different room for about four days. They then proceeded to move her back into her old room.

I am here today because the big business that runs my mom's facility, can do a lot better for my mom – even if COVID wasn't happening. I ask for you to please support this legislation today, HB 674.

I sincerely hope that writing this letter and communicating these conditions and events will not prompt any retaliation or willful neglect of towards my mother.

Sincerely,

Tina Hurley