

March 25, 2024

SB 202
House Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairman Barnes,

My name is Louise Caldi and I took care of my mother for almost 19 years-from the time I moved in with her after my husband died until her death at nearly 100 years old.

At first, while I was working, I managed the household chores gradually overseeing more and more of aging in place solutions like bars in the shower and around the toilet, bed railings, a walk in tub, waterproof mattress covers, alarm devices. Her medical emergencies and injuries from falling necessitated my taking days off from work.

By the time I retired, mom was 93, had developed dementia and needed increasing amounts of care. She could never be left alone. So we hired an aide for the mornings while I did the errands. For the rest of the day I was housebound with mom

Eventually mom needed professional round the clock care. Cost was prohibitive for us so mom went into a memory care facility. Covid was raging-no visitors allowed- I had to talk to mom from outside her window. Some weeks later, when mom saw me at her window, she kept moaning "mama, mama, mama." I left in tears. The next day she died.

The Grant Program proposed for Caregivers during those years of caring for my mother would have enabled us to cobble together the money for mom to stay in her own bed as her only daughter got to hug her, kiss her, stroke her dear face and hold her in her arms as she left us.

Please support SB 202!

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