

Written testimony for Finance Committee :Senate bill 952

Support: Favorable

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Good Afternoon,

My name is Paula Diamond, and I just went through the process of placing my mom in Assisted Living. I was first referred by the hospital rehabilitation social worker to a placement company to start this process. As background, my mom is a 98-year-old fiercely independent and feisty woman, who is also a Holocaust survivor. Her overall mental and physical health had been worsening even before her covid pneumonia diagnosis was made. I really needed help to find the right community and of course to get her to agree that her new home would be acceptable.

To say the least, I was overwhelmed and exhausted, and truly welcomed their help and guidance. Here is the help that was offered.

1. They received permission to review all the medical files and complete an in-person assessment at the rehabilitation center.
2. I met with the placement company and the social worker to understand my mom's competency to make this decision on her own.
3. Four AL communities were identified that were appropriate for my mom's overall level of care.
4. I toured with the placement company.
5. I chose one community and we worked together to have her room complete for the discharge date.

My mom has never been happier.

I support Senate bill 952. I was very fortunate to have a placement company that had a clear understanding of my mother's medical and emotional needs as they helped me through the entire process. I was no longer alone with this critical placement.

Thank you for your time.