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Good Afternoon,

Thank you for listening to and considering my testimony this afternoon. As you have already heard many times, the proposed staff ratios are still a great concern to me and my organization. Having stated that, I would like to now draw our attention to the proposal at large. There is no one who doubts that this room is filled with passionate people who feel responsible for the care and wellbeing of our State's elders; it is our common goal.

For years the vast majority of our providers have given excellent care to those in need. It is my opinion that the proposed change to our regulations is a case of the tail wagging the dog. Our regulations, though they need some revisions, have served us well over the years. What has not worked well, is the presumption that the regulators are not provided with the resources and the means to adjudicate appropriate actions against those providers who are not achieving the standards of care. Therefor I propose the true focus of regulatory change should not be on the tightening of the care standards but on the ability for the State to hold violators of the existing regulations to task. The very act of the proposed stringent changes is an affront to the majority of providers who give excellent, safe, and compassionate care. Especially when we were not invited to be an active part of the solution to what is presumed to be a major, and indisputable concern of our governing body. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

John Rice, MLA, FACHCA