

July 10, 2007

The Hon. Patricia D. Jehlen, Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Elder Affairs
The State House, Rm. 213
Boston, MA 02133

The Hon. Robert Correia, Chairman
House Committee on Elder Affairs
The State House, Rm. 167
Boston, MA 02133

Re: S. 398, "A Resolve Creating a Special Commission on Institutional Long Term Care Services"

Dear Chairwoman Jehlen and Chairman Correia:

I write to respectfully request that the Committee favorably report S. 398, "A Resolve Creating a Special Commission on Institutional Long Term Care Services." This legislation will establish a commission to study the Commonwealth's long term care system and recommend a plan to provide a seamless transition to a continuum of long term care services for elders and persons with disabilities. As members of the "baby boom" generation become senior citizens, it is imperative that our already strained elder care resources are utilized in the most efficient and responsible manner possible.

The commission will be instructed to uphold and promote the values of consumer choice and control in long term care settings during the course of their investigation and in all resulting recommendations. Often, the transition between one's home and an institutional long term care facility is stressful and disorienting. To the extent that a person's health and disposition permits, we must ensure that consumers of these services are afforded control over their living situations, and are able to make their own choices with regard to their care. They will thus live longer, happier, more productive lives.

The commission will also study ways in which the Commonwealth may best hire, train and retain qualified direct care staff. These individuals play an integral role in the maintenance of our institutional long term care system, and in supporting them, we will guarantee that our seniors receive the best possible care.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this request. As always, should you have questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Very truly yours,

Gale D. Candaras
State Senator