

Aging at Home Solution

Incorporated

January 19, 2021

TO: Chair Delegate Pendergrass
Health and Government Operations Committee

I want to thank you for your time and interest in my passion for providing the best possible care for our seniors. I have been in this industry for over twelve years; first as a general manager of residential service agencies, and now as the owner of Aging at Home Solution in Easton.

Clients and their families, through my encounters, believe that the state of Maryland has put proper training requirements in place regarding the care of their loved ones. When in fact, the minimum training requirements do not include any training for dementia or the recognition of it. I do not expect caregivers to be experts at recognizing dementia, but I do believe they should have more tools, so they can better assess the challenges they encounter when caring for someone showing signs of aging, whether it be Natural Aging or Non-Natural Aging.

I believe we need to set a better standard for companies in this industry. I recommend a minimum of three hours of training to better support our seniors. Many more hours of training on Natural Aging and Non-Natural Aging could be spent because of all the subtleties to the various stages of life. The three hours would give a good understanding of the differences between Natural Aging and Non-Natural Aging (Dementia would fall under Non-Natural Aging) symptoms. Three hours would also not be so intrusive to business owners financially. The average charge per hour for care under the RSA licensing is \$26.00 with the average caregiver pay per hour at \$11.67.

We need to set a baseline for dementia training; I believe this is a fair, mid-ground approach to improving our industry. Thank you to the Maryland National Capital Home Care Association for their support of this legislation.

Thank you again for your time and interest in this very important legislation.