



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AFFILIATED HOMES

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February 22, 2008

The Honorable Phyllis Mundy
Majority Chairman
House Aging & Older Adult Services Committee
PO Box 202120
Harrisburg, Pa.

The Honorable Timothy Hennessey
Minority Chairman
House Aging & older Adult Services Committee
PO Box 202026
Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Representatives Mundy & Hennessey:

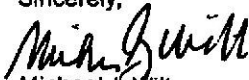
The Pennsylvania Association of County Affiliated Homes (PACAH) represents county and county affiliated nursing facilities in the Commonwealth. We are affiliated with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB 1952 and must oppose this legislation.

The Care Facility Carbon Monoxide Detector Act would impose yet another unfunded mandate on nursing facilities. Many of our member facilities are quite large and requirements for multiple carbon monoxide detectors would be expensive. In addition, the Department of Health, which regulates and licenses nursing facilities, has not identified this as an issue during their extensive survey process and have not instructed nursing facilities to address this issue. PACAH noted the provision in Section 3(b) that allows the Department of Public Welfare to exempt a facility from these requirements if it determines that no carbon monoxide hazard exists. We question what criteria DPW will use to make those determinations.

Since many county nursing facilities are large, this legislation could require a typical 300-400 bed facility to purchase, install and maintain 500 carbon monoxide detectors at great expense to the facility. In addition, Pennsylvania, unlike some states, the source of power generators or gasoline powered compressors are not located within the nursing facility, but rather are housed in a separate building with open-air flow, thus reducing the necessity of the detectors.

In a year when the Governor is proposing a zero percentage increase in the long-term care line item for nursing homes, legislation to increase costs at a nursing home should not be considered. PACAH respectfully requests that committee members not support this bill, as it will require unnecessary costs for nursing homes.

Sincerely,


Michael J. Wilt
Executive Director

