

**Testimony of Mary Hagerty, RN, BSN
Administrator, Four Corners Rest Home, Inc.**

Concerning

*Section 12 of H.B. No. 5020 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH.
Public Health Committee Public Hearing, March 6, 2020*

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, Senator Somers, Representative Petit, and Esteemed Members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding Section 12 of House Bill 5020- An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Regarding Public Health.

My name is Mary Hagerty and I am the Administrator at Four Corners Rest Home, Inc. Our home is an 18 bed facility located in Milford. I am testifying today to raise my concerns about Section 12 of HB5020 regarding discharges for residential care homes.

The discharge process is lengthy. It is almost impossible to discharge anyone. Yes, lists and assistance to find another appropriate placement is given and is necessary to do so, but individuals do not and most can not handle this on their own. It should not be mostly the facility's responsibility. Most individuals will require another RCH and we all know there are limited openings.

A recent episode of a discharge from my facility was for an individual that had severe mental instability and was consistently returned from the psychiatric unit. This individual refused to take medication, refused to go to a medical provider, knocked and stored personal items at neighbor's homes, bullied the staff and residents, lied and bullied others, dictated rules, dietary selections, and did not follow house rules. Refused to launder clothing and shower. Ongoing harassment and outburst caused mental strain to administrators, staff and other residents. Two separate hearings were initiated, abuse council and ombudsman involvement, and a considerable length of time and headache to the administrator. This is not fair to RCHs that take mental health patients and promise to have a clean, safe facility for them to reside in.

Most RCHs do not have the licensed expertise to provide for behavior therapy or counseling sessions that mental health residents often require. Residents must be capable of understanding, reasoning, and have an acceptable behavior and must be reasonably able to manage their medical needs either independently or with the assistance of their responsible party. Residents have a legal right to appeal a transfer or discharge and have a hearing. They will be given a representation. Where is our opportunity to have representation? We could, but it would not be cost report accountable.

While these are some little concerns, an open mind needs to be considered when Residential Care Home are licensed and responsible for housing mentally challenging individuals under the State Supplement and not private pay. There is a limited opportunity to profit from this business and expand. Thank you for listening to some concerns.

Mary Hagerty, RN, BSN
Four Corners Rest Home, Inc.
Community Partner