

Bill 33 – Amending the Long-Term Care Homes Act



What's the issue?

Residents of long-term care homes need and deserve a minimum standard of care. Yet there is a crisis in care quality and staffing in these facilities. That crisis threatens the health and well-being of residents, many of whom are elderly and require complex care.

If passed, Bill 33 (*Time to Care Act*) would amend the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*, mandating at least four hours a day of nursing and personal support services per resident (averaged across the residents). The minimum hours may be increased by regulation.

Some challenges

High workloads: 97% of residents have two or more chronic conditions and need help with daily activities like getting out of bed, eating or toileting. One in three is highly or entirely dependent on staff. Residents with greater physical, psychological and emotional needs create ever-increasing workloads for staff. These staff are overworked and require better training, supervision and support.

Underfunding: Ontario underfunds resident care compared to other provinces. That situation needs to change, so we can care for our elderly, and often most vulnerable, citizens in a timely and dignified manner.

Growing wait times: Along with meeting care needs, we need to address waiting lists for beds that are long and growing longer. As of June 2017, the average time to placement in long-term care was 137 days, and the wait list for long-stay beds was 32,046.

Chance of health complications: Improper nursing and personal care increases the numbers of health-related complications requiring hospitalization.

For more information:

Bill 33 Facts and Figures <http://bit.ly/factsfiguresBill33>

A crisis in care quality and staffing threatens the health and well-being of residents.

Questions

- 1 Given the health and financial costs associated with improper nursing and personal care, passing Bill 33 as quickly as possible makes fiscal sense. What can you do to accelerate the passage?
- 2 What are you prepared to do to ensure that PSWs are better trained to deal with the growing numbers of residents with complex and/or behavioural needs in long-term care homes?
- 3 What monitoring measures (oversight) should be added so that government can address stressed areas in long-term care facilities? What are you willing to do to bring about this change?
- 4 How would your party address Ontario's shortage of long-term care beds?



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