Email and Letter Template

PLEASE EDIT WITH YOUR OWN STORIES AND THOUGHTS

Dear {elected official},

My name is <first and last name> and I am from <relative address such as town, county>, MO. I am writing you to ask that you re-evaluate your position and amend the section of HB11 regarding the cuts in services you proposed to the elderly and disabled citizens of Missouri.

The budget cut of skilled nursing Medicaid rate by 3.5% and increase the level of scoring to determine eligibility for skilled nursing care from 21 to 27 is devastating to the elderly and disabled citizens of our state. These drastic changes matter because <insert your personal connection to nursing facilities or elderly healthcare here> <For example “The facility my mother is in will suffer greatly and not be able to give here the proper care” or “The residents in my facility will be ineligible for Medicaid and will be forced to obtain care from a hospital.”>

By increasing the eligibility requirements, Missouri will be forcing nearly 30% of the elderly, disabled, Missourians currently receiving this care out of their nursing facilities and homes. The strict requirements HB11 suggests make hospital admittance the only option for our elderly and disabled citizens. Hospitalization comes at a much higher price to the state. Care in a nursing facility or home is the most cost effective care option for skilled services the state has to offer our elderly and disabled citizens.

In addition, the state’s skilled nursing facility Medicaid reimbursement rates are some of the lowest in nation and currently do not cover the actual cost of providing care. The underfunding of the highly-regulated services nursing facilities must provide is unsustainable at this reduced funding level. By cutting skilled nursing facility reimbursement rates even further (an additional 3%), facilities will be forced to close; elderly and disabled residents will be homeless; the economy will suffer and unemployment rates will climb as the staff, so vital to the care of the residents, will be jobless. Skilled nursing facilities in Missouri employ more than 50,000 individuals.

I know you ran for office because you care about Missourians. Please don’t strip Missouri’s most vulnerable citizens of the necessary care they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

<insert your name here>