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Hartman", "Rep. Dawn Morrell", "Rick Hall"

Subject:

HB2284 (3)

Date:

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Hello,

My previous communications included a concern that as a matter of policy combining people with developmental disabilities with care for the aging population has consequences that are not helpful and indeed adds to the many challenges for those who care for people with developmental disabilities.

Most of you come to the work group with "aging expertise" and have a responsibility to work within the guidelines established. Without recognition, understanding, and adjustment the outcome of your efforts will be detrimental to people with disabilities and those that help with care.

The current 28 hour required Fundamentals of Care is widely viewed as an irrelevant curriculum for those who provide help to people with disabilities, a burden to the recruitment of helpers, and a poor use of scarce resources. Instead of directing our time and energies to reassessing and improving and making training relevant for our community we are compelled to have to push the ball up the wrong hill.

To punctuate the importance of differentiating our community from the "aging model" and raise your sensitivity to the issue I have attached a very condensed version of a training manual for those who provide help for my son. The entire manual currently runs 20 pages. The attached "shorthand" reflects the importance of the unique and nuanced characteristics of the individual and the benefit of relying on guidance and training on the job to assure the competence of the care helper.

Please take the time to read the attachment.

Respectfully,

Ron Ralph

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