

Konrad Jackson

From: Barbara Bigelow <bigelowbarb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:10 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB 235 SUPPORT

Senate Labor and Commerce Elected Officials:

I wrote in SUPPORT of SB235 and expanding dementia training for CNAs. As a licensed Nursing Home Administrator in Alaska for many years, I cannot over-emphasize how important it is that our CNA-caregivers at the bedside, especially in our Alaska Nursing Homes have adequate training and knowledge. To be trained, educated, and practice person-centered care in all phases of activities of daily living, comprehensive care, and the observation and assessment of patients and residents with any cognitive impairments and dementias is critically important.

Often in our nursing homes, dementias present as "bad behavior" to untrained caregivers.. It is imperative that all caregivers, especially CNAs who have entry-level training are given the tools to provide person-centered care. The average age of persons entering nursing homes are in their mid-80s and regardless of other medical diagnoses, dementia almost always plays a prominent role.

Thank you ~~Barb Bigelow, LNHA/NHAN134 (1991-present)



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