

Denise German

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To:

To Secretary Sullivan,

My mother and father worked hard to all their lives to insure that they would have enough money for retirement. Unfortunately my father passed away leaving my mother alone. Three years ago my mother fell and broke her hip. While in the hospital her dementia got considerably worse. Her doctors thought this was possibly due to the anesthesia used during surgery. Her diabetes that had always been under control before also worsened and she was put on insulin shots. When she was released from the hospital she spent six weeks in rehab. They came to the conclusion that she wouldn't be able to live on her own due to her worsened dementia, diabetes, and decrease mobility. So to get the care she needed she was moved into Vintage Park, an assisted living facility. We even sold her home so that she would have enough money to stay there. It took her awhile to settle in, but over time she adjusted and was doing very well. Then she started running out of money. When her money got low enough to apply for HCBS assistance, we applied and she was denied due to the units of care needed and her income. We had no other option but to move her in with my husband and I. Since moving her out of the environment that she was comfortable in and thriving in her dementia has gotten considerably worse and she is not adjusting well. She has tried many times to leave on her own and she is very confused. Most of the time she has no idea where she is or sometimes even who I am. She is very depressed and even talks about taking her own life. For these reasons we feel that she needs to be watched 24 hours a day. My husband and I both have to work to make ends meet. We are very afraid to leave my mother home by herself for fear that she will forget where she is and try to take off on her own, burn the house down, or worse. If you think a person who has dementia does not need a lot of care, try staying with my mom for 24 hours and then you will understand just how much care is needed. I don't understand why my mother has been denied this help. Now I may be forced to put her in a nursing home which will in turn cost the state more than if she could have just stayed in her assisted living home. Something needs to be done about this disservice immediately.

Thank You