

Riverview Estates Inc.

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February 14, 2012

Senate Ways and Means Committee
State Capitol
Room: 548 S
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Carla Adams; I am the administrator at Riverview Estates in Marquette, Kansas. We are a skilled nursing home, licensed for 40 residents, dual certified for Medicare and Medicaid. As a small rural long term care home, we are very concerned about the coming changes in Medicaid planned for 2013.

It is our understanding that under the proposed system, all long-term-care Medicaid residents will be placed in one of the managed care organizations and reassessed to determine if they will be allowed to stay in their current home or be forced to relocate to a different residence many miles from their homes and families, if they are deemed ineligible for long-term-care services.

We have great concern for the physical and mental well-being of our residents. The impact this forced relocation would have on the persons who have lived with us for several months or for many years would be enormous. Most would have to leave their families and life-time friends. Nursing home staff also become their family, by caring for their daily personal needs. To have to readjust to a totally new environment and caretakers would result in severe emotional distress and physical decline for most elderly individuals.

We have estimated that we could lose up to 7 residents—20% of our census may be relocated to a different facility if KanCare is put into being. But the impact does not stop at just 20%. Every single one of our residents could be affected by these changes if our nursing home cannot generate the income needed to provide homes for all the other residents. One of our 85 year old residents learned of the impending changes and expresses great worry to us. She is able to walk by herself most of the time, and can do a few other things for herself, but needs help with some things also. She knows it is possible that she would be reassessed as not qualifying for long term care, and she is scared about moving out of Riverview. She knows that her family is unable to care for her, but her family live near Marquette, and if she was moved to another facility, she would no longer be able to enjoy frequent visits by her sister. Family members of several other residents have expressed great concern as well, not wanting their loved one to have to be moved from a trusted and familiar environment near them.

We have great concern for how these proposed changes would affect the sustainability of our nursing home and our community. Over the years Riverview Estates has been a haven for elderly or disabled persons who were no longer able to care for themselves and did not have family to care for them. Many times Riverview has given care at financial loss to be able to provide a local home for local community members.

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Attachment: 8

Riverview is not alone. KanCare will affect residents from all nursing homes. Figures show that the numbers just don't work yet. There are not enough different types of facilities to house the elderly who will be evicted from nursing homes. Rural Kansas does not have many alternatives to nursing homes that will accept Medicaid. Where will all these persons go to receive the care they need?

We support post-poning KanCare and managed care organizations until further studies are completed and thoroughly investigated. We support any actions that would grandfather-in current residents, allowing current residents to stay in their current care facility. We support rural long term care homes having different KanCare/MCO guidelines than those in larger populated areas. We invite you to stop by our nursing home and talk to the residents that will be affected by the proposed Medicaid changes. We welcome you to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Carla Adams
Administrator, Riverview Estates nursing home, Marquette, KS

Heather Cave, RN
Director of Nursing

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