



Frankfort Community Care Home
"A Home With A Heart"
510 N. Walnut
Frankfort, KS 66427

March 6, 2012

Chairman McGinn:

I wish to thank Chairman McGinn and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 427.

My name is Laura O'Neil and I am the Administrator of the Frankfort Community Care Home in Frankfort, KS north of Manhattan, Kansas by 50 minutes. We are a 45 bed non-profit skilled nursing facility. Our facility was built in 1972 and opened in June of 1974. We currently have 68 employees on staff.

We have the traditional long hallway structure of older nursing homes in the 1970's and so "neighborhoods" are not practical or very feasible. Our heating and cooling is the old school water type system so common in the 70's and has constant leaking and breaking pipes. The cost to replace our system is equivalent to the half the cost of building a new facility, however being non-profit limits our access to funds to accomplish such a great feat. Many of our rooms are semi-private and share bathrooms with the adjoining room. We know from many articles being published that our "baby boomers" are going to want private rooms, private bathrooms with showers, internet service and much more and they should be able to have access to these amenities as this is what they are accustomed to in their own homes. We also need more assisted and independent living to accommodate those individuals that are Medicaid or low income and need this type of housing but can't afford the private pay rates for these.

We would like to build greenhouses and assisted living, but the population we serve is largely on Medicaid. We have difficulty setting aside cash to undertake these projects. The passage of Senate Bill 427 could help us and other nonprofit homes to modernize our structures and better serve our communities in the future.

Thank you for your time in listening to me and for your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 427.

Sincerely;

Laura M. O'Neil RN BSN
Administrator