



Teresa Armstrong

Member of Provincial Parliament
for London-Fanshawe



Ministry of Long-Term Care
6th Floor
400 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 1S5

October 7, 2021

Re: Legislating 4 hours of care for long-term care residents

Minister Rod Phillips,

I was heartened to hear this government reiterate its commitment to ensuring that every resident in a long-term care home receives a minimum of 4 hours of care per day earlier this week. I urge you, once again, to enshrine this in legislation by passing my bill, Time to Care.

As legislators, we know that promises can't go as far as policy can.

For well over a decade, government after government has promised reform after reform to ensure quality care. This government has done the same. However, just like previous governments, this government's reforms have stopped short of legislating minimum standards of care.

Almost a year ago this bill passed with all party support at Second Reading. It was never brought to committee for consideration. This is a familiar pattern. This is the third time since 2016 that Time to Care has passed at Second Reading with all-party support and never brought to committee.

The last 19 months have made abundantly clear, a failure to legislate minimum standards of care is a failure to safeguard vulnerable residents. It is a failure to value and protect staff. It is a failure to instill confidence in Ontarians that a publicly funded system will provide them with quality care.

[A couple of weeks ago you said](#): "The feedback that we have gotten is that there is a lack of confidence in parts of the system as a result of what happened in COVID and that is completely understandable. Now is the time to take action."

I agree. To echo Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission's Final Report, the time to act is now. Once again Minister, I urge you to act as if lives depend on you, because they do. Pass my bill, Time to Care, and legislate a minimum standard of 4 hours of hands on care per resident per day. And if you won't, the people of Ontario deserve an explanation as to why.

Sincerely,

Teresa Armstrong

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