

My name is Jowanna Peterson and I was a primary caretaker for my elderly mother Thelma Hannon until her death this year. She was diagnosed with Lewy Body dementia. For the most part I was taken aback by a lot of the red tape, and the mostly incompetent/negligent help my mom received from both nursing home care facilities and home caregivers services. If a resident of an average nursing home can fend for themselves, that is, are mobile and have some cognitive ability they are doable I guess, but if a client is wheelchair bound and/or has dementia, etc...be highly concerned about his/her care. I thought I did my due diligence in checking out places for my mom, including a records check and visits to licensing, AND, many visits to a potential site. I tried to check out everything. In nearly every instance I found serious violations and subtle neglect. The problems are so deep in so many facilities that it is incomprehensible. The "caregivers" from duly licensed home care agencies were for the most part just as bad. From the many agencies I used I believe I got just three pretty good caregivers that I felt cared about my mom's well being. Bear in mind I only used facilities for respite care and caregivers so I could work. I spent more time hiring/firing caregivers than working in 2016 and part of 2017. There are some serious deficiencies in this industry. I felt bad that my mother's benefits were used for the "care" she received. I thought the government/ insurance was being ripped off based on what too many agencies were charging and what my mom was getting in return. I know also that there are probably some good facilities out there but my mom definitely was not a recipient of one. Every nursing home should be rated as close to excellent as possible or be put out of business. I don't know if more regulation is the answer as most providers of such know how to get around that as they do now. What is the solution? I have some ideas that I think would be mutually beneficial, although I am just one person. But I have experienced enough to be an expert. This debacle has got to stop! Maybe the US needs to look at other countries like Denmark that provides a much better system for providing quality, sustainable, and nurturing care for the elderly and disabled. We DEFINITELY need help from somewhere!!! SOON!!! Thank-you!

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