



AB 2075 (Alvarez): Resident-Designated Support Person's Act

Bill Summary

AB 2075 would provide a resident of a long-term care facility with the right to in-person, onsite access to a designated support person or a health care and social services provider during a public health emergency in which visitation rights of residents are curtailed by a state or local order.

Background

Between 2020 and 2023, Covid-19 cost the lives of millions of Americans and irrevocably disrupted the lives of millions more. To combat its lethality and transmissibility for an acutely vulnerable population, long-term care facilities (LTCF), federal, state, and local authorities all curbed the ability of individuals to enter these facilities to provide care and meet with loved ones.

Recognizing the inherent value of allowing vulnerable populations in LTCFs receive loved ones as visitors, Assemblymember Nazarian introduced AB 2546 in 2021 that would allow residents to designate one individual as a support person who would then, under strict requirements, be allowed to enter facilities and visit with the resident. As the bill moved through the process, it was amended into a study bill that created the Long-Term Care Facility Access Policy Workgroup to generate a study of and recommendations for LTCF visitation in states of emergency. The workgroup launched on 02/08/2023 and published their findings on 10/05/2023. AB 2075 is a result of the recommendations made from the working group.

Findings

The working group hand a couple of important findings/recommendations as it relates to the importance of visitation:

1. There is an important need for LTCF Access
 - a. "Social contact is essential in preventing residents' social isolation and loneliness, which...has a significant negative impact on physical, cognitive, and mental health."
 - b. "Family, chosen family, and friends provide frontline care when they visit residents of LTCFs."
 - c. "Visitors who do not work for the LTCF have an important role in identifying issues with resident health and well-being, identifying care issues, and advocating for care."
2. A Resident's Designated Support Person should not be limited to one person but resident's should have the opportunity to add as many Resident's Designated Support Persons as they choose. However, unrestricted simultaneous access may not be wise and should be restricted to one person per visit.
3. RSDPs would have parity as it relates to safety protocols.
4. Rules that govern visitation hours outside a state of emergency apply during the state of emergency.

Conclusion



AB 2075 takes these recommendations and seeks to codify them in law. By doing this, we ensure that one of our most vulnerable populations receive the love and care they need without being isolated from the critical interaction with loved ones.

Support

- California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

For More Information

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