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Creation of the Nursing Home Commission, June 16, 1980

Vern Riffe

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INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO Mr. Speaker DATE 6/9/80

FROM: Ann

SUBJECT: Speech for the Greenbriar Convalescent Center

This will be a discussion meeting with nursing directors from nursing homes in Southern Ohio. They want it to be informal and they would like to be allowed to ask questions.

Time - Monday, June 16, 1980 - 11:30 A.M.

Location - Greenbriar Nursing Home, 1242 Crescent Drive, Wheelersburg, phone 574-8441

Contact Person - Debbie Evans at Best Care - 574-2558

GREENBRIAR CONVALESCENT CENTER SPEECH

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY. BEFORE WE BEGIN DISCUSSING LEGISLATION, I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO COMMEND YOU ON THE FINE JOB YOU DO EACH DAY TO PROVIDE A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR EACH RESIDENT. YOUR GOAL OF DEDICATION TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH CARE OF THE CONVALESCENT AND THE CHRONICALLY ILL IS A MOST WORTHY ONE. I KNOW THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY CARE FOR YOUR PATIENTS.

WE, IN THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HAVE FOCUSED MUCH ATTENTION ON THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES. WE, IN THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON MAKING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES BETTER.

THE MONTH OF MAY - THE NATIONAL NURSING HOME MONTH HAS JUST PASSED. THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO REFLECT ON WHAT THE LEGISLATURE HAS ACCOMPLISHED AND WHAT OTHER STRIDES NEED TO BE MADE TOWARD REFORM IN THE FUTURE.

TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW BRIEFLY RECENT LEGISLATION WHICH CONCERNS NURSING HOMES AND NURSING HOME PATIENTS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND WORKERS.

1) CREATION OF THE NURSING HOME COMMISSION

CREATED TO STUDY THE CARE AND PROBLEMS IN OHIO'S NURSING HOMES. MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

2) HOUSE BILL 600 (112TH) NURSING HOME BILL OF RIGHTS

THE LAW ENUMERATES 30 RIGHTS OF NURSING HOME PATIENTS.

1. THE RIGHT TO APPROPRIATE MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT.
 2. THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY.
 3. THE RIGHT TO A SAFE AND CLEAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT.
 4. THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED WITH COURTESY AND RESPECT.
 5. THE RIGHT TO HAVE ALL REASONABLE REQUESTS RESPONDED TO PROMPTLY.
 6. THE RIGHT TO USE TOBACCO UNDER APPLICABLE SAFETY RULES AND LAWS.
 7. THE RIGHT TO CONSUME A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.
 8. THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.
- 3) THE GENERIC DRUG BILL (112TH)

UPON REQUEST, PERMITS PHARMACISTS TO SUBSTITUTE LOWER COST

GENERICALLY EQUIVALENT DRUGS IN PLACE OF PRESCRIBED BRAND
NAME DRUGS.

--HAS EFFECTIVELY REDUCED THE PRICE OF MEDICATION.

4) HOUSE BILL 252 (112TH)

ESTABLISHES THE OFFICES OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE AT
MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND PROVIDES FOR THE STUDY OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE.

--A HIGHLY SKILLED BRANCH OF INTERNAL MEDICINE IN WHICH
DIAGNOSTIC, THERAPEUTIC, AND PHARMACY DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY
FROM TREATMENT OF YOUNGER AGES.

--OHIO IS A NATIONAL LEADER IN THIS AREA.

5) HOUSE BILL 176 - PASSED NOVEMBER 15, 1979

MANY TIMES CITIZENS WHO RELY ON MEDICAID AND WHO ARE
IN NEED OF NURSING HOME CARE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GET A

NURSING HOME TO ACCEPT THEM. HOUSE BILL 176 WAS PASSED TO HELP EASE THIS SITUATION.

HOUSE BILL 176 FORBIDS HOMES CERTIFIED FOR MEDICAID PARTICIPATION TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST PATIENTS WHO HAVE NOTHING BUT MEDICAID TO COVER THE COST OF THEIR CARE. THIS ENSURES THAT MEDICAID AND PRIVATE PAY PATIENTS HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO NURSING HOME FACILITIES.

PATIENTS ALSO RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES WHEN THEY HAVE FINALLY EXHAUSTED THEIR PERSONAL SAVINGS AND MUST SWITCH TO MEDICAID FUNDING TO FINANCE THEIR NURSING HOME STAY. SOME NURSING HOMES TURN OUT PATIENTS WHO SWITCH FROM PRIVATE TO MEDICAID FUNDING.

OF COURSE, NURSING HOMES CAN HARDLY BE BLAMED FOR ACCEPTING ONLY THOSE PATIENTS WHO ARE FINANCIALLY CAPABLE OF PAYING FOR THEIR OWN CARE. HOUSE BILL 176 ATTEMPTS TO REMEDY THESE PROBLEMS BY ESTABLISHING A NEW AND MORE REALISTIC MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT SCHEDULE FOR NURSING HOME CARE. REIMBURSEMENT FOR NURSING AND HABILITATION COSTS, DIETARY COSTS, UTILITY COSTS, AND PROPERTY TAXES WOULD BE BASED ON AN ANNUAL PER DIEM PATIENT RATE ESTABLISHED FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL HOME. THE RATE HAS BEEN FUNDED IN THIS BIENNIUM'S BUDGET.

6) SENATE BILL 200 (BEING CONSIDERED NOW)

LEGISLATION PROPOSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NURSING HOME COMMISSION.

--THE BILL REVISES NURSING AND REST HOME REGULATIONS.

--ESTABLISHES DETAILED NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR HOMES.

--SETS SPECIFIC PROGRAM AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR
NURSING HOMES.

--SETS NEW LICENSING PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS.

--THE BILL HAS PASSED THE SENATE, HAS BEEN HEARD BY
THE HOUSE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

--NOW HAS BEEN RE-REFERRED TO THE HOUSE FINANCE-
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE BECAUSE THE BILL HAS AN
APPROPRIATION.

AGAIN, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
AS LONG AS I AM THE SPEAKER, WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO FURTHER

IMPROVE THE CARE PROVIDED BY NURSING HOMES THROUGHOUT OUR
STATE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL WORK TO NOT INFLICT
UNNECESSARY AND UNREASONABLE RESTRICTIONS OR REQUIREMENTS
ON NURSING HOME OPERATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

(OPEN IT UP TO QUESTIONS)

(I HAVE ATTACHED COPIES OF HB 176 AND SB 200 PLUS A
COPY OF THE ANALYSIS OF EACH.)