Your Name  
Your Street Address  
City, State Zip

November x, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am writing to ask that you please re-consider holiday visitation guidance for Adult Care Facilities (ACF) and Nursing Home residents in New York State.

As the family member/loved one of a nursing home/adult care facility (ACF) resident, I am deeply concerned about the impact of strict limits on visitation. Many residents have had little, or no, visitation from their loved ones and as a result these seniors are showing signs of depression, anxiety, and related physical decline as a result of this social isolation. The dedicated staff at my loved one’s facility are doing their very best to find ways to otherwise connect residents to their families. However, under the current visitation guidance there is little that can be done to provide residents the loving interactions they need and deserve.

On November 24, the Department of Health (DOH) issued guidance to ACFs and nursing homes regarding conditions under which off-site home visits may occur. The guidance is thorough and rightfully outlines some important restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19. However, some of these requirements are very burdensome. A notable obstacle for residents is the required COVID testing that they must have 24-hours prior to their return. This will likely mean that a daylong visit will need to be an overnight visit due to the inability to get testing on Thanksgiving Day or any other major holiday, especially as we have seen significant delays in getting a test due to increases in demand. In addition, testing can be cost prohibitive to many families.

With the holidays upon us, it is now time for a more reasonable approach to family visitation that would truly allow seniors to connect with their loved ones. Well thought-out and reasonable plans are critical to the overall wellbeing of residents and staff of ACFs and nursing homes across the state.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue,

Your name  
City, State

Your Name  
Your Street Address  
City, State Zip

November x, 2020

317 Washington Street  
Dulles State Office  
Watertown, NY 13601

Dear Representative Walczyk,

I am writing to ask that you please re-consider holiday visitation guidance for Adult Care Facilities (ACF) and Nursing Home residents in New York State.

As the family member/loved one of a adult care facility (ACF) resident, I am deeply concerned about the impact of strict limits on visitation. Many residents have had little, or no, visitation from their loved ones and as a result these seniors are showing signs of depression, anxiety, and related physical decline as a result of this social isolation. The dedicated staff at my loved one’s facility are doing their very best to find ways to otherwise connect residents to their families. However, under the current visitation guidance there is little that can be done to provide residents the loving interactions they need and deserve.

On November 24, the Department of Health (DOH) issued guidance to ACFs and nursing homes regarding conditions under which off-site home visits may occur. The guidance is thorough and rightfully outlines some important restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19. However, some of these requirements are very burdensome. A notable obstacle for residents is the required COVID testing that they must have 24-hours prior to their return. This will likely mean that a daylong visit will need to be an overnight visit due to the inability to get testing on Thanksgiving Day or any other major holiday, especially as we have seen significant delays in getting a test due to increases in demand. In addition, testing can be cost prohibitive to many families.

With the holidays upon us, it is now time for a more reasonable approach to family visitation that would truly allow seniors to connect with their loved ones. Well thought-out and reasonable plans are critical to the overall wellbeing of residents and staff of ACFs and nursing homes across the state.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue,

Your name  
City, State

Your Name  
Your Street Address  
City, State Zip

November x, 2020

317 Washington St

Dulles State Office Building, Room 418

Watertown, NY 13601

Dear Senator Ritchie,

I am writing to ask that you please re-consider holiday visitation guidance for Adult Care Facilities (ACF) and Nursing Home residents in New York State.

As the family member/loved one of an adult care facility (ACF) resident, I am deeply concerned about the impact of strict limits on visitation. Many residents have had little, or no, visitation from their loved ones and as a result these seniors are showing signs of depression, anxiety, and related physical decline as a result of this social isolation. The dedicated staff at my loved one’s facility are doing their very best to find ways to otherwise connect residents to their families. However, under the current visitation guidance there is little that can be done to provide residents the loving interactions they need and deserve.

On November 24, the Department of Health (DOH) issued guidance to ACFs and nursing homes regarding conditions under which off-site home visits may occur. The guidance is thorough and rightfully outlines some important restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19. However, some of these requirements are very burdensome. A notable obstacle for residents is the required COVID testing that they must have 24-hours prior to their return. This will likely mean that a daylong visit will need to be an overnight visit due to the inability to get testing on Thanksgiving Day or any other major holiday, especially as we have seen significant delays in getting a test due to increases in demand. In addition, testing can be cost prohibitive to many families.

With the holidays upon us, it is now time for a more reasonable approach to family visitation that would truly allow seniors to connect with their loved ones. Well thought-out and reasonable plans are critical to the overall wellbeing of residents and staff of ACFs and nursing homes across the state.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue,

Your name  
City, State