



Sent via email: [Helena.Jaczek@ontario.ca](mailto:Helena.Jaczek@ontario.ca)

April 23, 2018

The Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek  
Minister of Health and Long Term Care  
Hepburn Block 10th Flr  
80 Grosvenor St  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Jaczek,

On behalf of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), I write today to express concerns regarding new government rules threatening to impose unreasonable fines on struggling long-term care (LTC) homes.

Long-term care homes provide invaluable services to senior Ontarians living in rural areas. Together, we should strive to ensure that these homes offer seniors the respect and supports they need to age with dignity, close to family and in community. Unfortunately, too many LTC homes are under-staffed and under-resourced, leading to suboptimal service delivery. As well, in some cases the rules imposed on LTC homes are conflicting and contradictory, disadvantaging LTC homes striving to comply with government regulations in the face of funding gaps and staff shortages.

While ROMA recognizes the importance of ensuring LTC homes are compliant with safety-related regulations intended to improve the livelihood of our seniors, imposing hefty fines on less important rules is the wrong approach. Instead, the province should focus on empowering, funding and supporting LTC homes in meeting their mandate. Such an approach would help struggling LTC homes better serve their residents rather than penalizing and intimidating a largely compliant sector in need of additional support. Moving away from the compliance-focused culture currently promoted by your ministry would also allow LTC staff to focus on providing care rather than satisfying inspector demands for time-consuming paperwork and reports. A shift away from this culture would also enable inspectors to focus on higher-risk issues rather than narrowing in on less significant issues largely outside of LTC control, resulting in better outcomes for our seniors.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these rural concerns. I look forward to further engaging the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care on this item.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Holman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ron Holman  
ROMA Chair

cc: The Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs