

ST. JOHN'S

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

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EXHIBIT 7
 DATE 2/7/2011
 HBS 377

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THE COTTAGES
A New Model of Caring

CHAPEL COURT
*Retirement Living with
 Supportive Services*

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN HOME
*Intermediate / Skilled Nursing
 Dementia Care*

THE CROSSINGS
Laurel

HELEN JORGENSON
Rehabilitation Center

SENIOR DAY SERVICES
Adult Day Care

CENTER FOR GENERATIONS
Child Day Care

ST. JOHN'S FOUNDATION
Serving, Providing, Assuring

• SUPPORTED MINISTRIES •

MISSION RIDGE
Independent Living

THE VISTA AT MISSION RIDGE
Assisted Living

SAPPHIRE LUTHERAN HOMES
of Hamilton

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES
of Montana

Dear Committee Members,

As a Vice President of Health Services in a large long term skilled nursing facility in Montana, I see many benefits for both the staff and more importantly, the elders, in support of House Bill No. 377.

- First and foremost, the biggest impact for our elders, would be the amount of time saved by the nurse to do more direct "hands on care," assessments, treatments, development of plans of care, and to give more personal time and attention to the individual elders and their families.
- Increased staff retention on both the level of CNAs and nurses. There would be added opportunity for the CNAs to climb a career ladder and give them more opportunity for advancement and increased growth and job satisfaction.
- Improved quality of care to the residents by having Medication Aides, who already are familiar with the elders, administer medications rather than traveling or pool nurses who are strangers to them.
- Nurses would have less stress in caring for 24-48 residents per shift. Nurses are always multi- tasking in many areas such as: reporting to MD's, taking orders, assessing and other complex nursing functions— PLUS sometimes passing up to three full med passes during their shift.
- Decrease in medication errors, especially omission errors, when the nurse is trying to give medication and has several things going on at one time. The Medication Aide would be focused only on the medication administration and documentation and follow-up.
- The elder would have a certified Medication Aide who is attentive to the "person centered" medication pass making it easier to honor the elder's wishes regarding times of administration; this would include elders not having their meals and social times interrupted for a medication pass. Medication aides would go per the elders requested schedule-- NOT for

...nurturing environments of hope, dignity and love

the staff's convenience or schedule. By doing so, this would decrease the feelings of institution and increase the feeling of a "home atmosphere."

- The elder would have more contact—more eyes and ears available-- to determine any issues of pain or discomfort or general well being. With more skilled eyes observing and listening to the elder, the Medication Aide would be reporting any unusual signs or symptoms or possible side effects promptly to the supervising nurse.
- The establishment of the Certified Medication Aide may help relieve the nursing shortage and will improve the quality of care to our elders in Montana.

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