



A MESSAGE TO PREMIER FORD AND THE ONTARIO CABINET – WITHDRAW BILL 7 NOW!

August 30, 2022

To: Premier Ford and the Cabinet

You cannot silence Ontario citizens who wish to speak to your government's introduction of Bill 7.

Seniors for Social Action Ontario co-founders and members ARE speaking with one voice and they are sending two messages:

Withdraw Bill 7 now.

Fund more humane and respectful alternatives to institutions, thereby stopping the mass institutionalization of older adults and people with disabilities.

If you truly want to empty hospital beds then redirect funds earmarked for long-term care institutions to non-profit Home Care and 24/7 staffed, non-profit neighborhood-based residential options.

Fund caregivers to take care of loved ones, and tie direct funding to the person, not the institution.

Give alternate level of care (ALC) patients a choice, and empower them and their families instead of taking away their fundamental rights.

This Bill has no place in a democratic society where all citizens should enjoy equal rights.

There is no excuse for undermining the rights of a vulnerable group when many other more humane and respectful alternatives are readily available.

**A Message to the Premier and the Ontario Cabinet
from the Co-Founders and Members of
Seniors for Social Action (Ontario)**

Older adults and people with disabilities in Ontario are horrified at your government's introduction of Bill 7 which removes the rights of Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patients, many of whom are elderly, to consent to being "placed" in a long-term care facility, and to have their personal health records sent there – also without their consent. This Bill is a violation of the fundamental human rights most citizens take for granted to be able to choose where they will live and with whom, and to protect their personal privacy.

Your government, instead of taking the advice of older adults and people with disabilities, has chosen to invest over \$6 billion dollars of taxpayer's money in facilities where no one wants to live and where few want to work.

Why have you not invested in your own High Intensity Supports at Home Program to assist people to leave hospitals with the required support?

Why have you not taken away the barriers for people with dementia and their families to access the Family Managed Care program so that they have the funds to obtain their own supports and services? That would have emptied countless hospital beds.

Why have you not launched a Money Follows the Person Program under OHIP, as exists under Medicaid in the U.S., that has kept over one hundred thousand people out of hospitals and nursing homes, allowing them to obtain their own services and supports with funds tied to them, not to the institutions?

Why are you not funding PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care of the Elderly) through municipalities' community housing programs all across this province?

Why are you not properly funding community-based seniors serving agencies to expand their support services to allow people to leave hospitals?

And why have you not started funding small, non-profit memory care homes for people with dementia in every part of this province, administered by municipalities and non-profit seniors serving agencies? That would keep countless numbers of people out of hospitals and institutions while building a comprehensive system of residential supports for them and their families.

You had all these options and chose instead to fund the corporate operators with the worst track records and highest death rates during the pandemic, adding even more institutional beds that no one wants. You cannot build your way out of this.

Your own Inspection Branch has been unable to bring most of these facilities into compliance with the Act, and cannot protect the people already there, much less those ill and infirm old people you want now to force to live there. You say you are a Premier "for the people". This Bill does not serve "the people".

Shame on you all for trampling on the rights of elder citizens in this way!

Withdraw this Bill now!

Co-Founders and Members of Seniors for Social Action (Ontario)

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