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Mesa, AZ 85209

11-054

September 22, 2011

Review Board:

I am writing to protest the closing of Culbertson Long Term Care in Rushville, Illinois.

Receiving a good service for a fair price is what both of my aunts anticipated when they became residents at Culbertson Long Term. Both of my aunts should be able to retain the service provided as long as they desire. If the price needs to be adjusted due to the prevailing competition, so be it. If the type of care needs to change due to a change in patient condition, so be it. If this service has to stop because of administrators' desire for an "easy" bureaucratic elusive dollar, shame on everyone making that decision.

Why would a non-profit entity providing a service at a fair price refuse to offer this service? The fear of losing an evermore-elusive government dollar has enticed the hospital board to ask permission to stop providing long-term care service. Everyone, yes, everyone--except those seeking this elusive dollar which may never come--would like to retain the long term care service. If the elusive dollar comes as it has in the past, it comes with "strings" attached. Once this government dollar is taken, it becomes addictive. Fear of losing the elusive dollar, despite the "strings," defies common sense. The reasoning and logic becomes "keep the elusive dollar coming."

The focus on offering the service and taking care of the person is changing. The patients are ours; we need to think of them. We are losing our way and our government. We need to take both back.

If the service is to be terminated, let us not force the patients out. Allowing the current residents to stay until they are ready to move would only be fair. Even if that means they stay another year, that should be allowed. Moving in the winter makes no sense when there is a choice. We have many choices; let's make those wise choices

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