

KENTUCKIANS FOR NURSING HOME REFORM

"A non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of the "Forgotten Kentuckians"

Our web site is: <http://www.KyNursingHomeReform.org>

Feb. 4, 2010

MEDIA ALERT

CONTACT: Bernie Vonderheide, (859) 312-5617

CONTROVERSIAL HOUSE BILL 444 FINALLY GETTING A HEARING TODAY

HB 444 will be brought out for a vote today at the House Health & Welfare meeting at 12 Noon in Room 169 of the Annex.

We hope you will cover this vote that is so important to the thousands of residents of assisted living facilities.

We will be glad to talk to you further at the meeting, but here is our advance statement on the bill:

HOUSE BILL 444

March 4, 2010

Statement by Bernie Vonderheide, chairman of the board and founder of Kentuckians for Nursing Home Reform.

Our support of House Bill 444 grows out of the fact that no one wants to live in a nursing home. Just talk to someone who has and they will tell you why nursing homes are places of last resort. In other words, stay out of them as long as you can.

House Bill 444 would help keep many people out of nursing homes. It would help keep people in assisted living facilities where they are settled and comfortable, and safe.

We have heard that the nursing home industry objects to this bill. They are wrong in doing so. We suggest that the nursing home industry should redirect their concerns for the safety of Kentuckians to the residents in their own facilities where abuse and neglect is rampant.

We think that House Bill 444 will be a monumental advance in the care of our older population that is growing by leaps and bounds every year, and none of whom ever want to see a nursing home, much less live, and die, in one.

State Rep. Susan Westrom is to be complimented for her work on this important measure.