PETITION

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Legislature Assembled:

The petition of the undersigned, residents of the Province of British Columbia, states that:

The B.C. government has announced its intention to allow publicly-funded residential care facility operators to opt out of the provincially-negotiated Facilities Subsector collective agreement – an agreement that sets out a common standard for wages and working conditions for nearly 40,000 health care workers.

A regulatory change would permit corporations that have been pushing for the move to opt out of membership in the Health Employers Association of BC. The "opting out" or de-accreditation would end co-ordinated collective agreement negotiations for these employers and create a patchwork of varying contracts.

If the provincial government follows through with this plan, the result could be high staff turnover, increased recruitment and retention problems, and serious and potentially ongoing disruption to continuity of care for seniors in a sector that's already been destabilized by under-funding and privatization.

Therefore, we urge the B.C. government to reverse any changes to regulations that allow residential care providers that are currently a member of, or that would be obliged to join, the Health Employers Association of BC from opting out.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	PHONE	SIGNATURE

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