



## Monique Taylor MPP, HAMILTON MOUNTAIN

December 11, 2020

Minister Merrilee Fullerton  
6th Flr, 400 University Ave  
Toronto, ON  
M5G 1S5

Dear Minister Fullerton,

As you are aware, Grace Villa Long-Term Care Home is currently fighting a devastating COVID-19 outbreak and needs immediate provincial intervention.

As of my writing this letter, 76 residents and 50 staff members have been infected with COVID-19 at the home. Ten people have already died. It pains me to know that there are dozens of families now grieving, or fearing for the safety of their loved ones.

I have been in contact with staff, management and the families of residents to better understand the situation. While many issues have come to light, they all stem from the primary challenge of understaffing at the home. While many of the PSWs, custodians, food service workers and other workers are in isolation from contracting COVID-19, the remaining staff are overwhelmed trying to care for the residents. They tell me that the situation is not sustainable.

I am seeking provincial intervention to develop a clear, transparent plan for this home, which is experiencing staffing shortages and burnout. I support the call from SEIU for management orders to have a local hospital take over operations.

The issues that Grace Villa are facing are not new. They are the same issue Ontario's long-term care homes faced during the first wave of the pandemic. Right now, the Ontario Government is holding onto \$12 billion in COVID-19 funds. These funds could have been used to provide the promised "iron ring of protection" around long-term care. COVID-19 infections and loss of life in long-term care have always been preventable.

The residents and staff of Grace Villa deserve swift action to prevent further loss of life and contain this outbreak. I ask that you immediately provide the Grace Villa the assistance it needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monique Taylor".

Monique Taylor, MPP

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