

Comments from US parents to the New York Times article

We are all familiar with the potential for abuse in group homes. It is one of our biggest fears - That of having one of our loved ones in one of these!

What really angers me is the talk about the unions protecting their own. It angers me because, I know it's true! The caregivers in California are now unionised.

When the previous governor started revamping was "In-Home Services". I wondered why the union was making a big deal about back-ground checks. They fought hard against anyone with felonies being hired. I forget now what were the only two felonies which could keep someone from working as a caregiver, but thought then, that was so wrong. It was so unreal.

Our state caregivers thought that if they went union, they'd get a great deal. Guess what? They did NOT! They now pay LOTS of dues to the SEIU and, so far, in the last two years their dental has been cut, their vision has been cut and now they can ONLY cover themselves on their medical. They are LOSING benefits. It's crazy.

The ultimate horror story regarding the caregivers mentioned in the article, is that these guys are still able to work as a caregiver. That makes me want to puke!

I've been doing guardianship for a lot of my clients lately, and I think a caregiver should be able to meet the strict requirements a guardian has to meet - No felonies, no prison, and nothing that would constitute moral turpitude (financially responsible, etc.).

I'm not a union person, but I remember the days before the providers were unionized. When the State only paid \$7 an hour and there were NO benefits. I think this union has done well for the union members and for family's like us who have to hire care providers.

I don't think there was ever a time they could buy insurance for their families. I think it has always been for the provider only.

Why do the unions protect their own? I remember hearing union trainers telling providers: "If the client you have is aggressive. you do not have to take it, you can simply walk out!" WHAT? Walk out, and leave my son who cannot be on his own, alone. Those are the kinds of things I don't like and I will not hire someone who has that attitude.

Well, one provider did walk out and leave a young man alone in a van. She spent three hours talking to her boyfriend, and got off pretty lightly. His family will pay with nightmares for the rest of their lives!