

To: The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

Re: Hearing on the LaSalle Veterans' Home

Date: 11/24/20 at 1 p.m.

Statement:

My husband is a resident at the LaSalle VA home. He contracted Coronavirus there last week and is currently in isolation. I would like to be assured that family members of residents will receive a full accounting from the committee on its inquiries and the results. In particular I request that Senator Sue Rezin be allowed to sit as a temporary member of the committee since so many of the residents originate from her constituency and all are currently residing within her constituency.

I do not expect the lay blame on anyone for what has happened but I would like to make sure that this does not happen again. In other words, I am looking for positive outcomes.

I would also like to take the opportunity to ask the committee why the only care options for veterans are in an institutional setting. I would have liked to keep my husband at home but could not afford the level of care he needs privately. It is time to look at a model of in-home services for our veterans.

Yours sincerely,

Rachael Mellen

1106 31<sup>st</sup> Street

Peru IL 61354

815-223-2769

815-993-3088 (mobile)

[rachaelmellen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rachaelmellen@sbcglobal.net)