

(Date)

Dear Governor Polis:

As a family member of a loved one residing in a long-term care community, I am writing to ask that you re-open nursing homes to allow for family visitation. Since the declaration of Colorado's State emergency was declared March 10, 2020, nursing homes have complied with your lock-down orders, putting the health and safety of nursing home residents and employees at the forefront of their work. Now that you have lifted that order and have moved to a "Safer at Home" phase, we respectfully ask that the same guidelines be given to allow our nursing home residents to have access to their loved ones.

Families and friends have seen the hardship that social isolation has placed on this already vulnerable population. Our elder family members have been well-cared for and nursing home staff have gone above and beyond to assist with virtual family visits and social and emotional support. However, no one can take the place of family and close friends in the lives of our frail elders – social distancing for them has resulted in weight loss, depression, sadness, and feelings of being forgotten. These are their last years of life and we want them to feel the love and support of family and close friends.

Please allow nursing homes to reopen to "Safer at Home" visitation. We would kindly ask that we be allowed to visit outside the community in a designated area. We will wear masks, remain 6-feet apart, and practice all required guidelines. We are confident that our nursing home communities can provide needed oversight and education to help families keep their loved ones safe and contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

We miss our elder family members and need to see them. They miss us as well.

Thank you for your responsive action to this important and heartfelt request.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

(Name and Contact)