



# West Woods of Bridgman

Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

The Honorable Fred Upton  
2183 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 21, 2018

Dear Member of Congress,

Thank you for your continued focus on economic development in Southwest Michigan. It is one of many challenges for our state.

As an employer, one of our top issues is finding and retaining skilled talent, and increasingly the people who live in my community, and want to work, do not have the necessary education and training to fulfill the minimum requirements for open positions at my firm. Our local workforce board, Kinexus, has played a significant role in the economic and workforce development of Southwest Michigan and has helped us face this challenge by bringing solutions to us, the employer.

For the last year, we have had the privilege of utilizing their programs and services to make our company and region successful. We are a skilled nursing facility that provides 24-hour care to residents for their daily living needs. Ensuring the residents ability to maintain a dignified and meaningful life is our purpose weather it be while they reside with us indefinitely or simply for a short rehabilitative stay to regain their strength.

Healthcare is a demanding field that continuously changes due to licensing regulations. It is a career field that is in high demand across the board throughout our nation, and maintaining the best educational opportunities places us alongside with our competitors. We have evolved our orientation process by utilizing a computer-based module training for all of our new hires and for all of our staff's continued education. Along with the job fairs that Kinexus provides on a monthly basis we have been able to expand our staffing capabilities and reach candidates we might not normally have been able to.



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As a local employer, we utilize the federally funded services provided by Kinexus and we recognize the importance of the workforce system. My company is able to focus on innovation and expansion, while my state and local workforce partners' outreach into the community to recruit and prepare the local talent needed to sustain that growth.

Kinexus is an essential resource for employers and job seekers in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. I appreciate all of the help that Kinexus provides for us and I look forward to continuing the relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Gill".

Christopher Gill

Administrator

West Woods of Bridgman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley White".

Ashley White

Human Resources

West Woods of Bridgman