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Editor-in-Chief's Note

GARY BORG



Of Champions and Advocates.

We all have experienced the feeling of helplessness as our loved ones deal with excruciating pain. As in everything we do with caregiving, the very best thing we can do is to become as knowledgeable as possible and act as our loved one's advocate. In this case, that calls for learning about the art and

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Take Care,
Gary

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Is your loved one in the hospital? This is your survival guide.
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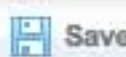
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Wikipedia describes a political interest group in this way: In the course of representing the interest of their members, these groups are often active participants in the political process. They may have both well defined political agendas and the financial resources necessary to exert broad influence on the political and regulatory process; utilizing direct lobbying, letter-writing campaigns, and voter turnout efforts during elections. I have often (only slightly) joked that the largest unformed political interest group would be the nation's 54 million family caregivers. Imagine caregivers of our aged loved ones, our children, partners, spouses, adult friends and relatives all utilizing our voting rights to receive the attention and support we need and deserve from our elected officials. One of the important things that would come about by such attention to the work of our elected officials would be to recognize those who are already fighting for us. Whatever their background, these elected advocates usually have one thing in common: they often are dealing with their own or a loved one's healthcare challenges. I remember speaking to a national governors' group a few years ago when, after my speech, a lieutenant governor of a large western state came up to me asking for advice in dealing with the Medicaid system as she cared for her mother. Her mother was a resident in the IL governor's state.

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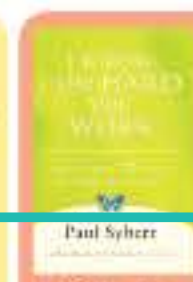
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