

## Steven Sepe

---

**From:** ana alosco <aloscoana214@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 7:45 AM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony SUPPPORTING H7969

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 7969.

My mother was in two nursing home facilities in Rhode Island and had two separate negative experiences, that I know of, that weren't adequately addressed and would have been had she been allowed an electronic monitoring device in her room. Her stroke left her with aphasia, the inability to express herself verbally. She needed 24 hour care and I was able to provide her with that for 10 years in my home. My husband and I had to make a move from CT to RI and living circumstances no longer afforded us the ability to provide for her at home. It was at this time she began her living experience in 2 RI nursing homes. I did have the good fortune of being able to be with her everyday to advocate on her behalf. At one point during her first nursing home experience, I was called because of a "cut" on her arm, which had evidently occurred due to a fall in the bathroom. Nurse on duty made light of wound, but my husband and I chose to see it for ourselves that night. We immediately drove to observe the nature and extent of the wound. The "cut" was an open wound to the bone, needless to say we drove her to the ER that night. I never received an explanation of what happened and when I tried to pursue it, my mother kept shaking her head no. Too many times residents are afraid to complain because of retribution in their care! Lose lose situation. My thoughts were and still are, what exactly happened? Was she in the bathroom for an extremely long time because her call light wasn't being answered and she tried to get up on her own? I will never know, but perhaps electronic monitoring could have answered those questions and helped her and I to address the situation. Care began to deteriorate so I placed her another nursing home. This came at the advice of a nursing staff member who advised me to move her.

While the second nursing home was adequate, there was an incident in which her arm was fractured. I was notified while away. I immediately returned home and the next day I brought her for an X-ray. Again no further explanation and again my mother did not want me to press the issue. She was fighting for her daily survival but at what cost? Again an electronic monitoring device could have helped determine what actually happened. Maybe staff were not responsible at all, but maybe they were, electronic monitoring would support either way. My mother had some wonderful people that cared for her and to them I will always be grateful, but there were staff who were not and they need to be held accountable and monitoring devices would give residents and representatives control over their care.

Never in a million years would I have thought my parent would be in a nursing home. Life happens in a split second and we have to make some difficult decisions, let's at least provide our elders with the care, dignity, and control they deserve. Those residents with dementia and the inability to verbally communicate are at an extreme disadvantage in controlling their end of life and health decisions. We are all a fall away, a stroke away from needing long term care.

My mother died during the Covid pandemic, can you imagine the isolation she must have felt and the lack of control I felt in not having direct access to her care! Electronic monitoring would have given us both some peace of mind. I urge you to support H7969 and to grant Rhode Island's vulnerable long-term care residents and their representatives the right to oversee their care with electronic monitoring.

All the Best,  
Ana M. Alosco

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone