

Steven Sepe

From: Maureen Ryan <maureen.ryan89@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 11:54 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Blazewski, Christopher R.; Rep. Donovan, Susan R
Subject: Re: Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 7969, giving residents of long-term care facilities the right to use electronic monitoring in their rooms

March 25, 2024

Re: Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 7969, giving residents of long-term care facilities the right to use electronic monitoring in their rooms

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

I have been a full time caregiver for my mom in her home (returned home to do so from living in Washington, DC after 25 years where I also served in the White House) as well as in various hospitals/rehab facilities here in my home state of RI for over 11 years until August 2018 when sadly she passed away in hospice at Miriam hospital surrounded by her family and friends.

I can tell you it's an extraordinarily challenging job for anyone but particularly for any caregivers who happen to be the sole advocates for those unable to advocate for themselves. When you have a loved one who isn't able to advocate for themselves living in a care facility, even one with a good rating and reputation, you live in constant fear of what might happen or even worse, what might not happen, without you knowing.

I was a relentlessly present and dedicated advocate (slept in her hospital room, arrived before visiting hours at rehabs, stayed past them) for my amazing mother and yet even with that level of supervision, many things fell thru the cracks...too many to write here. But I assure you had there been a H7969 in place during her health battles, the gap on the things that transpired in the rehabs would have been significantly smaller and the accountability factor would have significantly increased.

When the facility administrators won't allow you to have a camera in your loved one's room to monitor their care and condition, you must ask: What do they not want me to see? And I can answer many of those questions from my first hand experiences, should you ever need me to do so.

That said, I STRONGLY urge you to support H7969, so that long-term care facility residents and their legal representatives can exercise the right to oversee their care, deter poor care, and have some peace of mind. I ask you simply to put yourself in the position of being that patient one day...alone, possibly immobile, in a facility with loved ones on the outside...wouldn't YOU want them to know how you are being taken care of and handled in your absence???

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this critical piece of legislation.

With sincerest gratitude,

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