

Steven Sepe

From: Richard Rosol <richard.rosol@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2024 6:00 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Testimony SUPPPORTING H7969

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 Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

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

As a physician in Rhode Island, it is my duty to provide the highest patient safety possible, especially in the face of obstacles. The pandemic made the job all the more difficult, crippling access to care and imposing grave staffing limitations in all settings, including long-term care facilities.

Job stress is high, and job satisfaction is low. This can translate to so many problems in long-term care settings. I have personally watched two dear friends grapple with physical and emotional abuse of loved ones perpetrated by nursing home staff. In one of those cases family members were intimidated by management, with the implication that a formal complaint might lead to more abuse. When faced with this prospect, the family chose silence and could only hope for no further incidents. The patient's only true advocates were knee-capped, themselves victims of hired caregivers.

That's where you come in. Those with the loudest objections to this Bill are inside the industry. They argue mostly on the principle of privacy, even though the Bill comes with many stipulations to protect it. Our default stance on their objections should be one of extreme suspicion, as it is not the patient's privacy they aim to protect, but rather their continued ability to work without oversight.

Here is a perfect opportunity for our State government--you--to tip the balance of power ever so slightly but meaningfully back to powerless patients and families. You must allow families to tend to their loved ones at all times of day and night.

I strongly urge you to protect long-term care patients as if they were your own family. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 7969.

Yours truly,

Richard Rosol, MD

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