Steven Sepe

From:

Charles Galligan <charlieinvestigates@gmail.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 12:06 PM

To:

House Health and Human Services Committee; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep. Donovan,

Susan R; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.

Subject:

Galligan support of House bill 5303

Dear Chairwoman Donovan & RI House Health & Human Services members,

My name is Charlie Galligan, I am a criminal defense private investigator, longtime parental caregiver and advocate for nursing home residents and staff. I am testifying in support of House bill 5303, the Healthcare Professional Complaint History Transparency Act. The passage of this act, establishing a database of healthcare professionals' complaint histories, is an absolutely necessary protection for long term care residents statewide. Last summer, a newly hired male CNA in my mom's nursing home was investigated for sexually assaulting multiple residents, but was only able to be criminally charged in one incident. Sadly, in an abdication of ethics reminiscent of the catholic church scandal, the Department of Health was aware of at least one similar previous complaint against this CNA at another nursing home, but took no action to alert other potential employers of the accusation. This ugly episode at my mom's nursing home presented an unfortunate convergence of my professional and caregiving worlds. Naturally as a PI I am acutely aware of our constitutional protections for people's presumption of innocence, but to enable the abuse of such a helpless population by remaining silent regarding serially accused caregiving staff is morally shameful. This legislation would significantly assist facilities in keeping their residents safe.

Please pass 5303 to give these vulnerable long term care residents some boost in their protection from abuse.

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration, Charlie Galligan, PI RI rep, Essential Caregivers Movement Bristol, RI 253-3518