Testimony in Support of HB 6552  An Act Concerning the Rights of Residents in Long-Term Facilities to Use the Technology of Their Choice for Virtual Connections to Family, Friends and Other Persons

Connecticut needs to allow personal cameras for nursing home residents. If they were in their home, it would be allowed and the nursing home is their home.

The COVID pandemic and limited visitation has brought this issue to the forefront even more in today’s world. Knowing that people would have this option might put more confidence in having their loved one in a nursing home. It would also help in the decision to put a loved one in a facility, especially if they were not near the facility. A camera could give them the comfort of knowing that their loved one is being cared for and attended to.

Someone I know has a husband with dementia in a nursing home. She could only see him through a window, but this is not even allowed when the outside temperature is below a certain level. A camera would certainly help comfort her and let her feel closer to him.

Another friend said her mother died not of COVID, but of “COVID Syndrome” She was referring to the feeling of isolation that her mother had to endure because of the disease lockdown. Her mother was in another state, so they could only visit occasionally. A camera would certainly have helped both of them feel less isolated and comforted.

Many nursing home residents may not able to negotiate an I-pad or other device to talk with their loved ones. Many may be nonverbal. Again, a mounted camera would help in this situation.

Other states have figured out how to handle the privacy issue. I have full confidence that Connecticut could do the same.

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Patricia Lang
Newington, CT 06111