



February 16, 2010

Senator Prague, Representative Serra and other distinguished members of the Select Committee on Aging.

My name is Jean Rexford and I serve as Executive Director of the CT Center for Patient Safety. For over five years, we have tried to voice the importance of centering all of the legislators' decisions on the needs of the patient and not on the concerns and fears of the industries that loosely make up our health care delivery system.

I recently posted on our blog a story about a family in Ohio that dialed 911 – the staff of the health facility was not responding to their pleas to help their distressed relative. Unfortunately the patient died shortly after arriving at the hospital.

Raised Bill 103, an act concerning access to comprehensive factual information regarding long term care facilities is an important step in assuring accountability and transparency of the kind of care that is offered by the facility. The patient and his/her family must have a written statement enumerating his rights as well as the services available and staff to patient radio for all united on all shifts.

Another strength of Raised Bill 103 is the requirement that a written statement be provided by the facility assuring the patient and his/her family that the most appropriate and best care practices will be utilized.

It is your committee that so ably has provided leadership and sensitivity to the needs of individuals and their families concerning nursing home care. I look forward to seeing the passage of this bill and as advocates we will work towards that goal.