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Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 5383 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SCREENING PROTOCOLS FOR URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS.

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*My Name is Kathy Morin and below is a transcript of the timeline of occurrences when my mom, an Alzheimer's patient died as a primary result of an undiagnosed UTI while a resident at Manchester Manor in Manchester, CT.*

**History:**

My mom, Virginia Montesi, passed away on December 21, 2012 at Manchester Memorial Hospital after being admitted via a 911 call made by Manchester Manor nursing staff on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6PM because she was unresponsive and was having difficulty breathing. I had seen my mom the day before and the one thing I noticed was she would *not eat, andt for her that is symptomatic that something else is going on. I questioned the staff and they just shrugged it off.*

My mom had a myriad of physical ailments, was 88 years old, *frequently had UTI infections* and I monitored her care and problems far more closely than most people. I typically received 4 or 5 calls from the Manor each week, mostly updates on my mom from the nursing staff. My mom also suffered from Alzheimer's which was an additional reason for such close monitoring of her care.

Mom arrived at MMH on **Sunday** at around 6pm. She had a sugar reading (she was diabetic) of 40 upon arrival at the hospital which accounted for her unresponsiveness. While she was treated for that problem, she was also having difficulty breathing at her oxygen absorption level was low so the put her on a by-path breathing machine. She could not respond to me when I first arrived she was in such poor condition. *After they took blood work the ER doctor told me she has a "raging" UTI infection.* I stayed with her until late in the evening, and subsequently left so they could get her a room and let her sleep.

**Monday**, I called the special care unit where she was and was told she was awake but not talking and her eyes were open. I got to the hospital around 5 or 6 and was told she had made a small bit of progress but she was not swallowing her pills. I gave her a couple of bites of apple sauce but could not do any more. Her doctor at MMH, *Dr. Case came in and told me she has an infection (UTI) that was so bad it has gone into her blood stream and is resistant to antibiotic.* I told her to find an antibiotic that will work and make her recover.

**Tuesday**, I again called the hospital and was told her condition has not changed and she still not taking anything by mouth. Then later in the day Dr. Case called me and told me my mom was doing worse. *She told me they had found an antibiotic that did respond to the UTI infection and had administered a full 5 day regime in a short time to attempt a cure. It did not work; the infection had spread too far.* It was this day that the doctor told me my mom would not survive. I insisted they keep trying anything at all to help her. They said she could not take any fluids and when the ER gave her fluids when she first came in, she went into fluid overload and that made her CHF act up.

**Wednesday** was a carbon copy of Tuesday, my mom had her eyes open and I prayed for a miracle thinking if only this had been diagnosed and treated, I would have my mom for Christmas. I stayed with her most of the days after this.

**Thursday**, I conceded to putting my mom on hospice care at MMH because I knew in my heart I was losing her. In the evening she was moved to a hospice room and I stayed with her, her eyes were still open and a tear was in her right eye in the corner, she knew what was going on, the only thing I could do now was to stay by her side and reaffirm how much I loved her. At this time she was receiving shots of morphine through her IV every hour and when I noticed she looked uncomfortable, at this time she still had urine output.

**Friday** morning I arrived early to stay and stay through the night, not to leave her at all. The hospice nurse from Vernon visiting nurse came in, assessed her and was assigned to her case. Friday her eyes were closed and she was "sleeping". In the morning she moved and moaned so I called the nurse and told them to give her more medicine or something. They asked if I wanted to put her on a morphine drip and I said yes, to lessen her suffering. *Note: The entire time my mom was in the hospital she was running a fever and receiving Tylenol suppositories even the last day of her life, that is how bad the infection was.* All afternoon she appeared to be sleeping with the morphine drip. I noticed that during the afternoon, she would have times where she would stop breathing and I would jar her back, I thought she was almost too relaxed and was forgetting to breathe. At 6PM my husband and son came to see my mom and to say their goodbyes to her. She was sleeping comfortable, her extremities were warm, she was breathing, so I said I was going into the hallway for a minute to say goodbye to them because I am sleeping in my mom's room for the night. I went out to the hallway for a couple of minutes...when I came back into the room she was gone....

## Summary

The reason for this narrative is to demonstrate how my mom truly suffered for the better part of a week and ended up dying because her UTI was not diagnosed and treated in a timely manner. I know my mom was 88 years old and if that is supposed to appease me in rationalizing her death, it doesn't work because I could have had another Christmas, Valentine's Day and who knows how many more days, weeks, months, or even years with her had she been properly cared for, diagnosed, treated and tested for a UTI on a regular basis.

Note: My mom's doctor at Manchester Manor, once he found out what happened to her called me 3 times to "talk to me" about my mom. He knew he missed this and unfortunately for her and him, it carried the ultimate price. Even when I called Manchester Manor on Friday evening to report my mom had died, I spoke to the supervisor and he said her doctor was right here and wants to speak with you. I declined to speak with the doctor for obvious reasons; **he** is responsible for my mom dying. On her death certificate, it states under cause of death in the list sepsis, UTI, cardiac arrest because of the other factors. I can provide a copy if needed.

I really need help to address this case so my mom's passing does not go in vain, without making the end stage of Nursing Home residents, particularly when afflicted by Alzheimer's or anything else that prevents them from communicating discomfort to the staff life better for the end.

Thank you.

*Kathleen Morin*

