

Paul Caron  
7702B Spear St.  
Charlotte VT 05445  
pauljoec@gmail.com

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RE: [HB-5270](#)

As a family member and conservator of elders, under long term care in Connecticut, it saddens me to see this bill. There are some states where video cameras have been authorized to protect elders from abuse. While it is unclear if this is the intent of the bill, or whether the matter is to protect from other injury- such as falls, it seems to be pointing toward less human contact. Studies have shown that even people in a coma can be aware of the human presence and human touch, and these studies have now even cast a reasonable doubt about awareness of individuals in vegetative states.

There is and can be so much more to be done for our elderly relatives in care - beginning with staffing - Connecticut should pass a bill that increases staffing hours for nursing home residents - it has one of the lowest staffing requirements in the nation and a staffing law that hasn't been revised in decades. Staff who are already burdened, and staff who miss performing in person checks in people's room, with other items of care, could also easily miss checking a monitor. It is any wonder that analysis of recent reductions of antipsychotic medications for dementia patients (based on CMS data,) still leave Connecticut the last in New England and 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for progress? These two sets of data are connected.

Nursing home staff especially CNAs, need to be paid a living wage such that they do not have to have multiple jobs to support their families and they should have regular schedules to be able to manage their own lives. The state should ensure that staffing ratios, i.e. number of patients per CNA are humane, both for the caregiver and the patient, and not only consider aggregate hours of care.

The state also should support ways to keep family members engaged with relatives in nursing homes. By law relatives of nursing home residents are allowed to form family councils to support each other and to advocate regarding care issues, but these councils are few and far between, and little known.

With all the discussion about the dangerousness of antipsychotics and the voluntary industry efforts at reduction has anyone wondered why Informed Consent is not required for such potentially hazardous medications? - It is not, (despite billions of dollars paid to the government in pharma fines) and a consent from a legal representative or family member should be sought in such instances where there is no other recourse. Massachusetts passed a bill last year, but Connecticut (last in New England) has yet to consider the matter. If the state is going to consider placing video cameras in residents rooms it should consider allowing family members to do so (with consent of the resident if they are able), but frankly there seems to many other priorities that could protect and enhance the safety and life quality of nursing home residents first.

Respectfully,

Paul Caron

Relative, Elder Advocate, and Family Council Representative for a New Haven Nursing Home