



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Testimony on Proposed HB 5270 An Act Concerning Video Monitoring Of Nonverbal Nursing Home Residents.

Dear Chairmen Gerratana and Ritter, Ranking Members Markley and Srinivasan, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on **HB 5270 An Act Concerning Video Monitoring Of Nonverbal Nursing Home Residents.**

This bill aims at protecting nonverbal patients in nursing homes from abuse and neglect by allowing video monitoring of their care through the installation of video cameras in their private rooms.

A close family member or the conservator for the nonverbal resident would need to give consent to the video monitoring. If a room at the nursing home is shared with another resident then written consent from the roommate would also be necessary before installation of the video camera. The nursing home would also be provided with a notice that the resident intended to use video monitoring in his or her room. Likewise, the nursing home would be required to post a notice that video monitoring was taking place in certain areas of the facility.

The resident (family member) requesting the video camera would be responsible for purchasing the video camera since this would be an individual choice. The cost of a video camera/surveillance device varies and ranges from \$200.00 to \$1,000.

Texas and New Mexico have enacted statutes explicitly authorizing nursing home residents the right to install electronic monitoring.

The intent of this bill again is to provide nursing home residents with security and safety from abuse.

My mother endured physical, severe abuse at a nursing home in Connecticut. I was **not** notified of the abuse when it occurred, even though I visited my mother frequently and the nursing home had all of my contact information. My mother was nonverbal at the time so she was unable to convey to me what had happened to her when I discovered the abuse. It was never determined how the abuse occurred. If there had been a video camera in her room it may have prevented the abuse or neglect.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 5270.

Kathleen M. McCarty
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