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Aging Committee
March 9, 2021
Zoom 3:30 PM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 975
An Act Strengthening the Bill of Rights for Long-Term Care Facility Residents

Chairman Slap, Chairman Phipps, and distinguished members of the Aging Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 975, *An Act Strengthening the Bill of Rights for Long-Term Care Facility Residents*.

For the transcript, my name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

Similar to Proposed Senate Bill 425, *An Act Concerning The Right Of Residents To Use Technology Of Their Choice In Long-Term Care Facilities*, which I introduced earlier this legislative session. Developed by the Nursing Home and Assisted Living Oversight Working Group, on which I had the honor to serve in 2020, this bill ensures that residents of long-term care facilities have the right to treat their living quarters as their homes and have the same rights as all other state residents, including the right to use technology of their choice for purposes, including, but not limited to, virtual visitation with family members and loved ones. The bill also establishes a process for residents to file grievances for violations of their rights. Taken together, this bill's provisions are critical to improving the lives of residents of long-term care facilities as we continue to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. More importantly, this bill is essential as we prepare for future pandemics as well.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 975. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.