

Written Testimony on HB 461
Aging and Long-Term Care Committee
June 3, 2020
Vicki Krafthefer, Guardian of Sister in Long-Term Care

Chair Gunther, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Howse and members of the House, Aging and Long-Term Care Affairs Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to give written as an interested party in regard to HB 461, legislation permitting long-term care residents and/or their authorized representatives to conduct electronic monitoring in their room.

My sister resides in a nursing facility in Westerville, Ohio, and has been a resident since September 2016 and in two prior nursing homes. Since September 2016, she has had over 80 falls and five since the COVID-19 virus. My sister has been physically, mentally, sexually, and emotionally abused and has been neglected. I have tried to get the people responsible to be held accountable with the help of Ohio Attorney General's Office, Ohio Dept Of Health, and Westerville Police Dept , but we could not prosecute as I believe the nursing home did not make accurate reports in the records and reports and possibly covered up what actually happened.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office is continuing to investigate the previous owner Matt Dapore and his partner Paul regarding other nursing homes that they had shut down last year. My sister's current facility is on Medicare's special focus list and is currently being operated by United Methodist Homes.

- My sister has had bruises in between her legs, up and down her thighs, all over and under her breasts.
- I caught a male aide kissing her and he told me her was her boyfriend. I told this aide to get out of her room and reported this right away. She then, went for a sexual assault examination. This examination was not able to make in a timely manner, as we didn't know date this happened.
- Christy has been hit in the head by a nurses fist, her ear lobes pulled till they bled, left to clean up her bed and floor that had diarrhea all over which she couldn't due to being paralyzed on the right side and 2 claw fingers on the left hand and wheel chair bound.
- She has been left sitting on toilet till she falls asleep and results in falls She is left to do her own toileting and when she tries to take herself to bathroom, she falls and gets hurt.
- She gets hit because she has an accident that they do not want to clean up.
- My sister has had her call light hidden under her fitted sheet coiled up, in between wall and bed so tight I couldn't get it out, at the foot of the bed clipped onto a curtain, how is she to call for help.
- She is constantly told she is going to die.
- Medication has been refused to her and she has had to beg for her pain medication.
- She has been called white trash, white trash zombie, ugly retard etc.

- The stress has caused her to have over 66 seizures in a day. She was hospitalized for stress related seizures.
- She has been arrested for assault which was dismissed as nurse lied and her witnesses did also, and none showed up for any hearings.
- Christy had to see forensic psychiatrist as she is that of a 5-year-old child mentally because she was served extremely hot water. It burned her, and she threw the cup. The nurse tried to say she threw it deliberately. It was not proven, and they have cameras in dining room but would not show it. The water was too hot for residents per the Ohio Revised Code. The charge was expunged.
- They sent her to 2 different hospitals trying to have her pink slipped into a psychiatric ward which the doctors at both hospitals found her behavior was due to large amounts of Risperdal that was never to be changed and was by Dr at nursing facility.
- . I have filed numerous complaints and 50 have been substantiated.

I could go on for days of the abuse and neglect. So, you see cameras would really help me during this pandemic as I cannot oversee her care since this lockdown. Many issues goes on as well with other residents, however, incidents get brushed under the rug and no one sees anything or knows anything. Why should our loved ones go through this? Would you want any of your family to have to go through this kind of treatment? These residents pay a lot of money to live in these facilities and this is what care they get?

We can use the cameras until HB 606, giving immunity to neglect which expires in December 2020 since legislators would not take nursing homes out of the bill. It is only fair and very reasonable as we need to protect our loved ones in nursing homes. Every time you see your mother, father, brother, or sister imagine them going through this daily. Wouldn't you want cameras to protect them?

I would be happy to respond to any questions you have.