

The lockdown of long term care facilities has personally impacted the overall well-being of my now 96-year-old mother. In the past 11 months, my mother's psychological and physical status has plummeted due to separation from me and the longstanding support she had been receiving from me. Because there are walls and windows between us, I am unable to provide the security, comfort and oversight that once gave her emotional support that was central to her care up until last March 2020. Using a telephone or even doing window visits are useless because of her very poor hearing and eyesight. My mother has recently been put on a palliative care program. This past week, the hospice nurse mediated a Facetime visit with my mother and me. The technology was basically useless and the visit did not provide my mother any comfort. On the contrary, the technology seemed to be very unsettling and exhausting for her. I had not seen my mother for a few weeks since she had been at a doctor's appointment. It was heartbreaking to see how much my mother had declined since that time. My mother is just one out of multitudes. In the state's effort to "protect" the elderly in facilities, these laws, in actuality, are causing unnecessary and extensive psychological and, in turn, physiological harm to these precious human beings as they near the end of their lives. It has been almost an entire year since this nonsense began. Until those who hold positions of power are personally and sufficiently impacted, this cruelty to our elderly population will continue to ruin more and more lives. It is time that the law makers take serious and timely action to put an end to elder abuse through long term care facility lockdown policies. We are no longer in the early, unknown, unvaccinated stages of this disease. Why are we still operating in the same manner at this point?

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