



Elderly Nursing Home Abuse Advocates

Est. 2011

Founder Steve Piskor

Eldernursinghomeabuseadvocates.com

Facebook.com/estherpiskor

216 420-3869

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To: Families and Aging Committee

Opponent Testimony for HB 465

Dear Chairperson Schmidt, Vice-Chairperson, Miller, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the Family and Aging Committee,

I am in Opposition of Ohio House Bill 465 Lauren's Law that uses Esther's Law language to allow for cameras in children's bedrooms in Developmental Disability Group Homes. A camera law for cameras in children's bedrooms has never been passed in any state in any care facility in the entire United States of America, in fact it has never been passed in any state in any care facility where children reside even in common areas. Children in Developmental Disability care facilities are considered 21 and under.

For the past two years all Ohio Legislators have ignored our concerns to protect our loved ones in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Many families have been having problems with nursing homes when placing a camera in their loved ones room. These unscrupulous long term care facilities have tried to charge families between \$200 and \$800 dollars for the installation of a camera that takes no tools to install in minutes. They have tried to make them sign their rights away to file a lawsuit for anything caught on the video. We have Attorneys who deemed this unconstitutional. They tried to dictate the type of camera and when there was a camera in they shut it off, blocked it or removed it. This is all in violation of Esther's Law. They went to the Department of Health, the Ombudsman, local authorities and all of you, and they received to help from anyone. The Department of Health who is the governing agency of Esther's Law refuses to enforce it, and so does the Ombudsman.

Furthermore for over two years we have advocated with all of you to submit a Bill to amend Esther's Law to stop these nursing homes from violating Esther's Law and to include Assisted Living Facilities and look at including other care facilities which would include group homes. This was promised when Esther's Law was passed. WE waited for the implementation period to pass in 2022. We waited for the lame duck session passing only 16 Bills in 2023. We are now in 2024 and still being ignored the right to protect all of our loved ones. Families have gone through neglect, abuse, rape and murder in the time period nothing was done in long term care facilities.

We are not asking you to get on top of the Capital Building and wave a flag. What we are asking you is far much less than you are doing in HB 465 with cameras in children's room. WE are asking you to expand the language in Esther's Law to let families have a camera with no problems from these troubled nursing homes. We are asking you to include Assisted Living facilities which will receive no opposition. They do the same thing a nursing home does and that is taken care of our elderly and most vulnerable loved ones. Amendments to camera laws in the 16 states that currently have a law like Esther's Law have had amendments like this to include assisted living facilities or nursing homes. This law is over 20 years old and there has not been one case of a privacy violation that has went to court to prevent this law, there has not been one case of a HIPAA law violation which does not apply to Camera laws anyway.

We oppose HB 465 in favor of submitting a Bill to amend Esther's Law to fix the language, add assisted living facilities and look at adding other facilities to see how they can be added to Esther's Law, like group homes.

Thank You,

Steve Piskor

Founder of
Elderly Nursing Home Abuse Advocates
Our 13th year of Advocacy