

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

Thank you for hearing my support testimony for HB 236 The "Never Alone Act"

I would like to add my voice to the many who have experienced the pain and anguish of losing loved ones who were left heinously to die alone throughout the covid debacle. My husband and I had a very dear, close neighbor and friend, someone we have known for decades, who had went into the nursing home in 2020. We were unable to visit him because of the nonsensical restrictions and to let him know we were still there and had not forgotten him. We were unable to hold his hand, to listen to his stories again, to laugh about old times, to share a meal, and to also make sure he was receiving the care he deserved. He became depressed, didn't want to eat and his will to live wained. He was lonely and craved the human interaction of the people he loved and who loved him. In the end, he died-alone, not peacefully and with the comfort of friends and family around him, but just alone. This is the tragic story of so many. My heart hurts for every patient and every family member who has endured, what I would only describe as the cruelist, inhumane travesty of our time. Never, ever again should this be tolerated or allowed. This bill would be an assurance of that, a protection of our rights as humanity, giving a voice back to the voiceless.

I urge the committee to vote YES on HB 236

Sincerely

Kristine Gorman

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