

835 Holly Oak Lane
Aurora, Ohio 44202

November 28, 2020

To: Representatives Frazier, Abrams, Baldrige, Becker, Carruthers, Cross, Ghanbari, Ginter, Grendell, Hambley, Hillyer, Holmes, A., Jones, Jordan, Keller, Kick, Koehler, LaRe, McClain, Merrin, Plummer, Riedel, Scherer, Seitz, Smith, T., Stein, Swearingen, Wilkin, and Zeltwanger.

Re: Passing the Essential Caregivers H.B. No. 770.

Dear Ohio Representatives,

PLEASE do not change one word in this bill, and pass it quickly. The mandatory-camera-in-room bill seems to have slipped quietly into the night. Forgive me, but my guess is that the care-facility lobby held some sway. The residents who are left on toilets, wait for hours to have a dirty diaper changed, are demeaned, go unbathed, contract MRSA, are handled roughly, forgotten at meal time, and have their possessions “misplaced” certainly did not. Nor did we, the family members and loved ones.

This bill will help provide, protect, and honor precious people whose only crime is aging, and, for all intents and purposes, are locked in solitary confinement. Businesses don't love them. Families do.

My 95-year-old mother moved into a care facility in March and has significantly declined both physically and cognitively. Before she moved, she lived in an apartment and was ambulatory. Now she is confined to a wheelchair.

For years I visited or volunteered in care facilities. Those experiences made me hope that I would never have to live in one. I've never seen my mom's room, know what her food is like, or how sanitary her environment is. I don't know how she's treated, but based on my experiences, I can guess. Sometimes she refers to “the mean ones.” I've never met her caregivers; they are anonymous and autonomous—a recipe for disaster.

A few weeks ago, when I stopped to see my mother, it looked as if she had a pair of dark red crew socks on. It was cellulitis. She had been given Tylenol for the pain, but an antibiotic was just being started. I firmly believe that if an essential caregiver had **daily unscheduled access and/or mandatory cameras in every room**, this would have been addressed much sooner, and it would not have progressed to the degree that it had.

My mother and others like her are invisible, unheard, and ignored by society. You can change that. Please do **now** so that we can ensure quality of life before life is over.

Respectfully yours,

Amy N. Scott