

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tabatha Vanni. I am the grand daughter of Esther Piskor. I am writing to testify of the importance of SB58. Camera's are important in nursing homes. It is to protect the elderly in every way. Abuse is real. It happens. Esther's Law would protect elderly from having to deal with this pain.

My Grandmother raised me. My father and mother had me at a young age, they divorced and my mother gave up her rights. My grandmother took me in as her own. She raised me into the woman I am today. When my grandmother got sick, this was her worst fear. The fear of getting abused physically and/or sexually in a nursing home as she heard horror stories from others. I always told her not to worry and I will always be there. As her dementia worsened, we had no choice but to place her in a home. At that time she was walking and talking still. I seen my grandmother diminish within months right before my eyes. From being able to walk and talk, to not being able to walk or say a single word. I seen her legs curl up as she if was in a fetal position, never to bend straight again. Worst of all I seen the time when she didn't recognize me, But I also seen the time when she snapped out of it and noticed who I was as I sat next to her in nursing homes. She would smile and she looked like my grandmother again, and try to talk. That changed once she went to the nursing home where she was abused.

During that time, I would go sit with her, and during the times when she noticed who I was she would cry. This was not normal. When I would leave she would cry. The nurses that abused her were so nice to my face. Talking to me about my children, and other things. I remember saying, wow these nurses are so nice. However I didn't understand why my grandmother would cry when I left. My uncle then placed a camera in a room and put a sign up saying he was recording. Then that's when these nurses started covering the camera up. I asked them directly why, they stated for her privacy. However, I seen everything already. We cleaned her prior, and bathed her. It seemed they covered that camera more and more which raised questions.

When we placed the other camera in and seen what they were covering up, we were horrified.. Imagine seeing someone that is helpless get abused. My heart shattered. Her worse fear came true and she was hinting to me all along by crying and I didn't know. Why? Because I put trust in the nurses, nurses that hurt her. Imagine how terrified she was. On top of that she was Legally blind. Imagine being blind, not knowing what is going on and being abused.

This is exactly why SB 58 needs to be passed. We need to protect those that cannot protect themselves. The elderly are our family. The protected us at one time, now its our turn to protect them.

Thank you,

Tabatha Vanni

