

Elderly Nursing Home Abuse Advocates Est. 2011 Founder Steve Piskor Elderlynursinghomeabuseadvocates.com Facebook.com/estherpiskor 216 420-3869

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Dear Chairman Susan Manchester, ranking member Beth Liston, and committee members.

Esther's Law Ohio Senate Bill 58 is named after my mother who was brutally abused in nursing home. The only way I found out about the abuse was with a hidden camera. The Camera caught eight aides involved in the abuse. One went to prison for 10 ½ years, one to jail for six months, three were fired and three were disciplined. Then Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and the Cuyahoga County prosecutor worked together to investigate and prosecute these aides. The story of the abuse went worldwide, and has been in the news for the past 10 years with many stories about nursing home abuse.

This legislation passed the Ohio Senate unanimously and is unopposed by any major organizations in Ohio. Governor Mike DeWine has had his staff call me to tell me he is still a dedicated advocate of elder abuse. In my ten years of advocating to end elderly abuse in nursing homes I have talked to and met hundreds of people that went through or going through the same as I did. My Facebook page has almost 8000 members and hundreds of stories of abuse, neglect, rape and murder.

The COVID pandemic woke thousands of people up to the nightmares of nursing home abuse. Many families did not see their loved ones over one year, and then we they were allowed back in they were restricted. Cameras in all long term care facilities is not a solve all problems for our loved ones. There is still much work needed to keep them free of neglect and abuse, and to be treated with dignity and respect. Cameras will be a help to some who will be able to take advantage of using them with Esther's Law. This is a step in the right direction in providing a safe environment. We just want to know that every time we walk out of that nursing home our loved ones will be OK, as it is now, that is not happening. No matter how much I visited my mother, I could not stop the neglect and abuse.

I ask you to follow the Senate and unanimously pass Esther's Law Ohio Senate Bill 58 for cameras in all long term care facilities.

Thank you, Steve Piskor

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