

Witness Testimony

SB 58 CAMERA'S

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I'm in support of CAMERA'S being installed in Nursing homes. I was an Advocate for my mom for eight+ years. She passed away in June 2020.

During these years in two nursing homes. I witnessed an awful lot of violations of the federal and state laws in the nursing home rules and regulations. Not only involving my mom but other residents as well. Management and staff were both violators and had no regards for these laws.

My mom was hurt when she fell out of bed onto a hard concrete floor. I had to hear from her that this happened. Even though a male nurse found her on the floor. I was not called till two days later and told. I witnessed people whom needed to go to the restroom pleading for help. With three nurses at the desk doing paperwork and not one would get up and help. They just sat there. People would fall out of wheel chairs and there was no one there to even pick them up. The nursing home doesn't like to hear verbal outbursts from residents and I have heard an administrator tell the nurse to get a hold of the residents doctor to get the person medication to keep them quiet. My mom was a very verbal lady and they had her on every medication available for anxiety/depression. When that didn't work they went to morphine. Although, my mom had no pain or any condition that would be terminal. She was drugged so bad she was unresponsive

to touch or verbal ushering. She was severely dehydrated in both nursing homes and the last one did not keep up feeding her or making sure she had water. The excuse was, there is no water given after 6:30pm. If the person did not drink earlier in the day. They were just out of luck for getting a drink. Cameras are needed all through these homes except the private areas (restrooms).

I went to the state to complain at each of the nursing homes about the dehydration, falling out of bed, and the over drugging. Each time I filed a complaint. I was banned from seeing my mom for speaking up for her rights. The first time they grilled her to find out it was me that turned them in. The second time they knew it was me because I sent them the nursing home a certified letter about staff not keeping her hydrated. The first home I was retaliated against because although they unsubstantiated my claims. The home was found to be in violation for lack of fire safety and I was told fined in the thousands. They went after my guardianship over it and lied against me that I bothered people in their place. If there had been cameras in these homes that could have been proven wrong. But there were none. Administrators are in these homes to protect the bottom line. They are not there enforcing laws or rights

that are supposed to be followed in these places. I feel because of this. The camera bill needs to be revised. These places are government funded. Government should be the ones letting people have the cameras or be putting them in every room themselves. Don't let the nursing homes dictate who gets one or not. Government needs cameras in every area so when administrators make their claims. Residents and families have a means to prove that the nursing home management and or staff are not being truthful. You can't give power to people who do not uphold the laws in the first place. Residents and families deserve better than this. Please get our government to do more for our most vulnerable people. Cameras are there to prove wrong doing and footage will end up in courts. People need to be able to have access to this footage, no matter whom they are or what they have gone through with these nursing homes, staff and administrators. There has to be a way to make sure that is done. I don't feel nursing homes should control any of this. It should be government. No one should ever be banned because they dared to speak up for their loved one. Implement cameras through out these places. Protect our laws and rights.

Thanks

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