

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide support testimony for HB 236; "The Never Alone Act."

My mom was living in a nursing home when Covid hit. Access was shut down there as in many places. I lived (she passed away) far away from her. She lived in Texas, but it doesn't matter, the issue remains.

During Covid, I travelled to see her several times, and was not allowed in despite my travels. Again that shouldn't really matter. I was told I could "visit" her from outside her window. I called on my telephone to her inside, and tried to see through to her as best I could. We tried to hear each other, but there was a huge AC unit next to me so it was very difficult to hear for both of us. There was no physical touch or comfort I could provide. I did the best I could to show my love to her.

I was finally able to get her moved into a private nursing home in Dec. of 2021, but it appears that was too late. She passed away that same month. It was very difficult to watch my mom wither away without my comfort, or that of other loved ones. She was still in Texas, and died alone, much to my sadness.

Every Ohioan, every person deserves, needs and has a right (or should anyway) have a right to see loved ones and advocates while they are in ill health.

I ask and urge the committee members to please vote yes on HB 236 to ensure this basic freedom for Ohioans.

Sincerely,



Douglas E. Stern

Hudson, OH