

I am submitting testimony today in support of SB 266.

My 94 year old mother, Virginia, has been living in a memory care facility in Springfield for 2 years now. She is no longer ambulatory and therefore needs a 2 person transfer to be moved from her bed.

I am her daughter, her POA, her representative payee and her Trustee under Federal and State law. It is my duty and privilege to protect my mother and her rights.

The only way I know that my mother's needs will be met with staffing is the use of a video camera in her room. How would I ever know if she is being neglected, abused, or if staff is doing their job? How would I know if someone forgot to bring her meal, can she reach her glass of water? Are they changing her brief? Or turning her every 2 hours so she doesn't get bedsores? God forbid that there's ever a fire or a situation where everyone needs to be evacuated at night. I do worry about adequate staffing. She does have Hospice and I do visit 3 times a week, but there is much time when she is alone.

Regarding complaints; I guess these days our due diligence is also to research a facility as to whether it has received complaints, descriptions of incidents, resolutions, fines, etc. I have done research and the fines are much too lenient in my opinion. Keeping the reports on file at the facility and not in public view is not as transparent as it could be.

SB 266 lays the groundwork for holding facilities accountable and protecting resident's rights, but there is more to be done.

Thank you for your time.

Judith Smith