



**Rhode Island Partnership  
for Home Care**

*Advancing quality healthcare at home*

March 26, 2024

**VIA EMAIL:** [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)

Hon. Susan Donovan, Chair  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Opposition to House Bill 7820; Prohibiting Photography of Home Care Patients and Clients**

Dear Chair Donovan,

On behalf of my association, I oppose House Bill 7820, *An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- Licensing of Health Care Facilities*, sponsored by Rep. Jacquelyn Baginski.

This bill seeks to prohibit healthcare facilities, including home care providers as licensed by the Department of Health as home care providers, home nursing care providers or hospice providers, from photographing their patients and clients for office use. Photographing home care patients and clients is important for two reasons: 1) ensuring that the nurse, therapist, social worker, nurse assistant (CNA) or homemaker entering into a patient or client's home has a visual confirmation that they are providing care to the correct individual; and 2) ensuring that the home care provider has an accessible picture to provide local police when a patient or client with advanced behavioral healthcare needs, Alzheimer's disease or dementia wanders from their residence. Many home care patients and clients live alone without an accessible relative or family decision maker residing nearby said patient or client. While home care providers are not required to photograph patients and clients by any federal or state regulatory agency, nor any national accrediting organization, it is considered a good business practice for the aforementioned reasons. Home care providers that do photograph their patients and clients require signed authorization at the time of intake. Patients and clients have the right to opt-out of being photographed and should be noted on the authorization form.

Thank you for your considering our home care patients' and clients' safety concerns as it relates to our opposition to House Bill 7820. Please add this letter to the committee's record for this bill.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas Oliver*

Nicholas Oliver, MPA, CAE  
Executive Director

cc: Members, House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hon. Jacquelyn Baginski, House Bill 7820 Sponsor