

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Amy Harmon <amyharmon100@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 8:30 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Donovan, Susan R  
**Subject:** Fwd: Testimony SUPPPORTING H7969

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 7969.

I am writing to wholeheartedly support this bill as the daughter of a lifelong geriatric care Registered Nurse and the loving granddaughter of a long term care resident, my late grandfather. I am also writing in support of this bill as a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). As an SLP, I have interned with residents of long term care facilities with communication challenges stemming from dementia, Parkinson's or other neurodegenerative diseases which make it difficult for them to communicate effectively with staff members or their family. If someone with communication challenges is unable to tell a staff member what happened in an altercation with a roommate, or tell a family member about mistreatment that they are suffering due to their communication or memory disorders they have little to no recourse and it is very distressing. The choice to have a camera installed is something that is legal in 20 other states and is supported by AARP-RI and the RI-LTC Ombudsman. It is not without precedent and has given many families more than just peace of mind, but the ability to be effective advocates on behalf of their loved ones, some of whom may no longer be able to communicate for themselves.

The well being and proper care of nursing home and long term care residents is of the utmost importance and value. Please consider my position and vote FOR this bill so that families and professionals may best help their loved ones to get the best possible care in their golden years.

Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,  
Amy Harmon