

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Kim Gilbert <kim3155@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 7:13 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** H7969

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 7969, the Residents Rights Camera Bill.

I can speak to this issue from multiple vantage points including 46 years as a practicing occupational therapist and the daughter of an parent who spent the last 3 years of her life in a skilled nursing facility.

As an occupational therapist, I have had the opportunity to provide home care services to many patients who had cameras inside their homes. A few years ago this was a novel experience but it became common place quickly. I became comfortable with the potential of being observed remotely once I realized that my work is the same in a 1:1 patient situation, in front of the family and or in conjunction with other health care providers.

We were fortunate that my mother, although she was severely visual impaired and was unable to walk independently, remained intact with respect to cognition and memory. As difficult as it was to know that we were unable to keep her at home, the certain knowledge that she could advocate for herself and make her needs known was of great comfort and relief.

I have seen first hand the critical and often difficult duties and responsibilities of direct care staff and believe that shedding more light on and having more awareness of the realities of their jobs can only bolster the argument for more equitable wages, benefits and support.

This is a sensitive and delicate issue and there are many factors to be considered. The Resident Rights Camera Bill offers an opportunity to take a closer look at the complex needs of providing care in these facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this important Bill and for your thoughtful concern for some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Sincerely,  
Kim M. Gilbert  
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North Kingstown