

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Laura K <laura.korthauer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 12:09 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Donovan, Susan R  
**Subject:** Testimony FOR H7969

**Re: Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 7969**, giving residents of long-term care facilities the right to use electronic monitoring in their rooms

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

I am a clinical neuropsychologist who specializes in cognitive aging, including neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. I see patients with a range of cognitive abilities in my clinical practice, and I do research to improve early detection of Alzheimer's disease. I strongly support the right of residents of long-term care facilities to use electronic monitoring in their rooms.

Residents of long-term care facilities are among our most vulnerable citizens. Many have memory impairment, intellectual disabilities, or communication problems that prevent them from reporting about abuse or mistreatment. Because of this, their personal rights are often violated. Elder abuse in long-term care facilities is very common, with a recent study finding that 2 of 3 staff members reported that they physically, emotionally, sexually, or financially abused a resident within the past year. This problem has worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic, as long-term care facilities have become short-staffed and health care workers have experienced burnout.

Giving residents of long-term care facilities the right to use electronic monitoring is, at its core, a way to maintain residents' dignity and autonomy. Residents and their family members should have the opportunity to weigh any risks of loss of privacy against the benefit of electronic monitoring to prevent abuse and neglect. Passing this bill would empower some of our most vulnerable citizens and reduce abuse and mistreatment in long-term care settings. I strongly support House Bill 7969.

Sincerely,

Laura Korthauer, PhD