

Marianne Kelly
10 Elizabeth Ann Drive
Johnston, RI 02919
mkelly5915@ymail.com
203-687-7385

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House Bill No. 7969

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ELECTRONIC MONITORING IN NURSING AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 7969. I have personally experienced the worry one feels when an aging loved one is in a long term facility. I never questioned the care that our beloved 'Nana' received as her dementia advanced beyond what we could do. She was safe and happy but we worried all of the time. She didn't know who we were so phone calls were futile and frequent visits provided no information on her care. She was clean and fed. She seemed happy. We worried all of the time. That was 1975.

Today's technology provides a way to keep in touch with your loved ones and monitor their care. Baby monitors give parents and caregivers access to sleeping babies. I can watch my grandson get off the bus in Connecticut from my home here in RI. I can monitor many angles of my home. When I travel cameras are used at tolls and along highways. There are cameras everywhere today. The ability to monitor our loved ones care should be offered (for a fee) by the nursing or assisted living facilities to all residents. The option should be up to the resident and family and not the facility, whether they want monitoring. And everyone should stand up for a bill that would reduce or prevent abuse and neglect, especially for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

I am asking you to support House Bill No.7969 which will allow electronic monitoring to be used in nursing and assisted living facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Kelly