

Submitter: Jewel Nelson
On Behalf Of: Laura-NelsonLevy
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB134

Dear Chair Gelser-Blouin , Vice Chair Linthicum and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Senate bill SB 134

My mother, Eve Nelson, suffered from dementia for many years. I live abroad and was only able to visit her once a year or so. It became even more of a challenge to check in with her when she was no longer able to manage phoning me or answering my phone calls.

One time, several years before she was moved into The Rawlin, she had fallen in her apartment. It was a long, long time before anyone heard her crying out, saw her on the ground and picked her up. There was from my part a terrible sense of loss of connection with her and a helplessness.

In 2019, my mother became a patient at the Rawlin Memory Care facility in Springfield. She was there for about 5 years until she passed away in September of 2023.

When my sister, Jewel Nelson, installed a camera in her room, it made the long distance between my mother and I manageable.

At the touch of a button, I could look in on her at any time of the day or night. In the way a child knows and senses their mother's moods from a look or a pose - I could watch her closely and see how she was doing.

I could see her eating, or talking with the staff, or sense when she was distressed and calling out for help. It was a short step to call the desk at The Rawlin and say hello or see that someone was in the room with her and I could call her directly and speak with the helper and then my mother.

What a wonderful comfort that was to my mother and myself!

The camera, allowed me to "be in that room with her" and I felt her continued presence in my life.

We are such a spread out nation, but technology allows us to cross and connect over great distances.

Please pass Camera SB #134 and Family Council SB #134, to allow us, the children, our turn to take care of our parents, our loved ones, after all the care they gave us as children.

Please, let us remember the biblical commandment,

Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long...
Exodus 20

Thank you very much,
Laura Nelson-Levy
Jerusalem, Israel

Laura Nelson-Levy
Licensed Tour Guide
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